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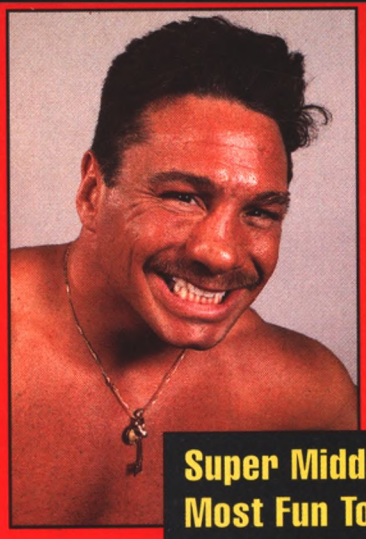

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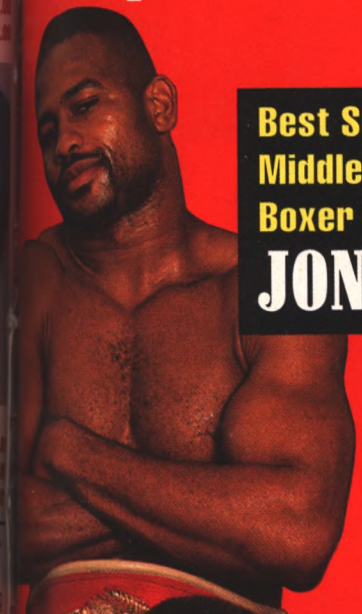

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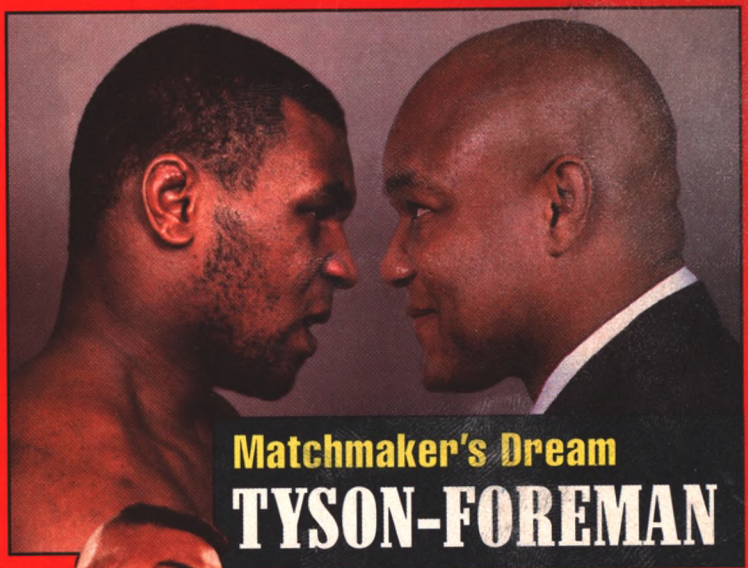

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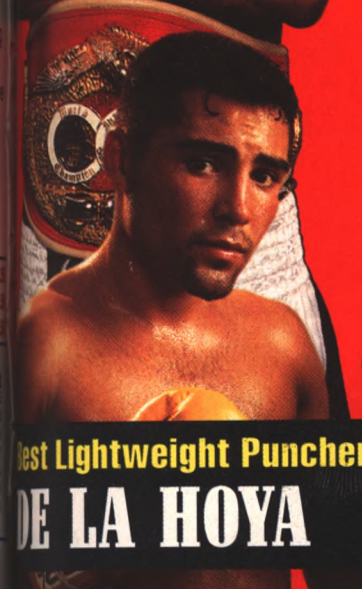

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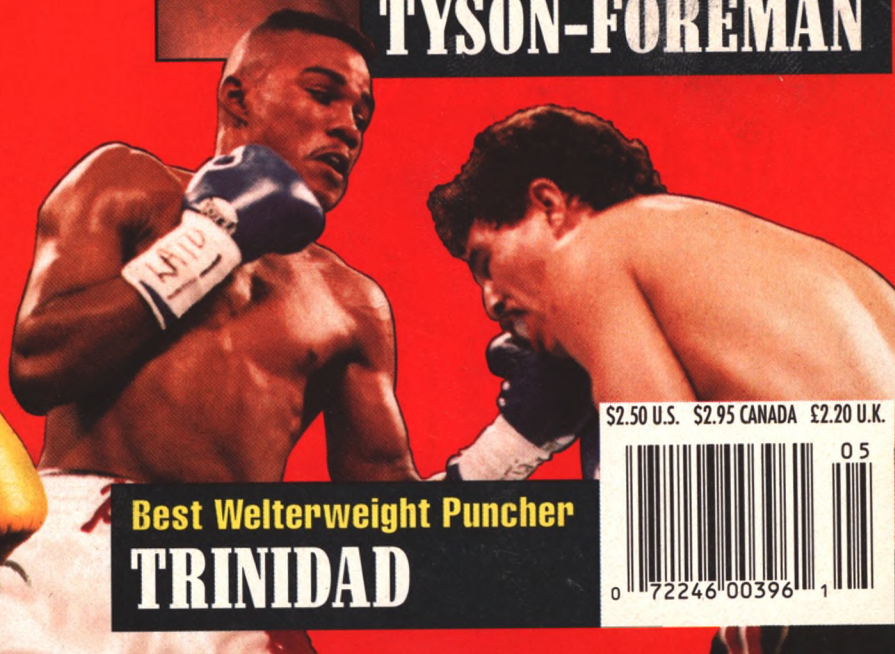

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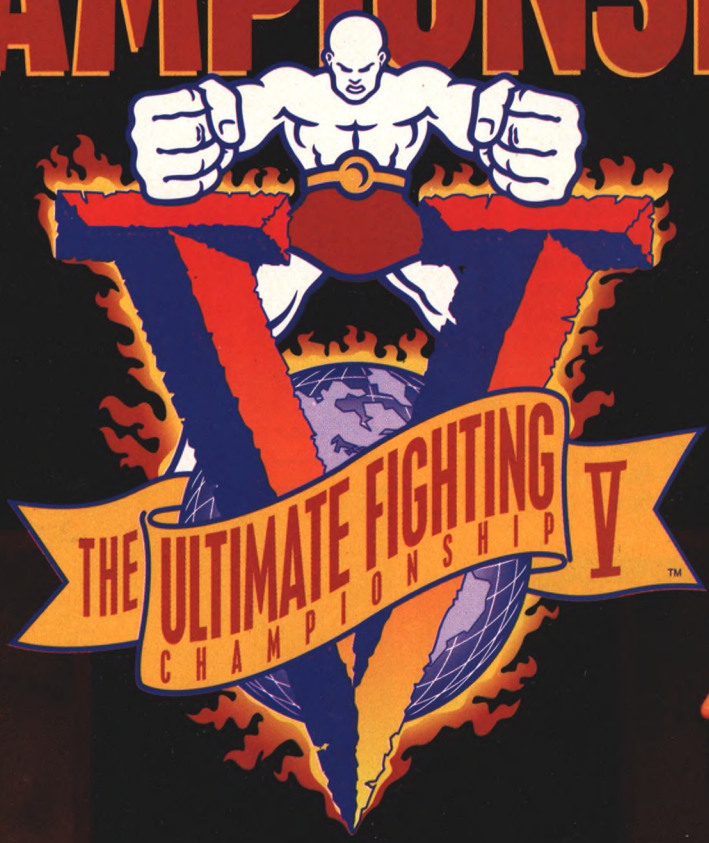

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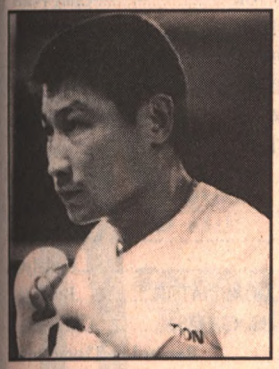

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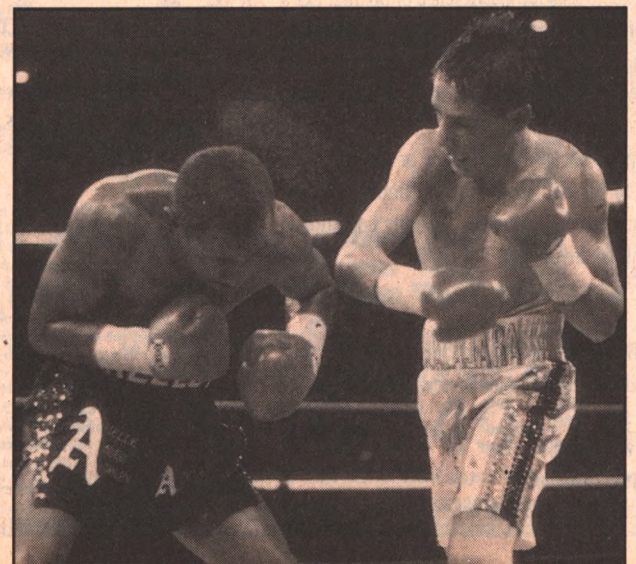

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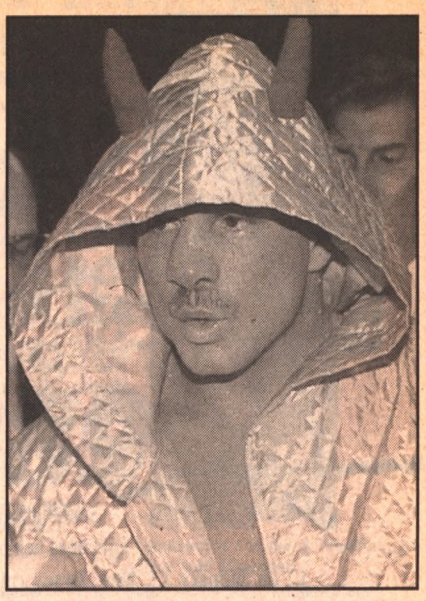

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RINGSIDE

October 1, 1975, Quezon City, Philippines: After 11 rounds of untamed rage and ferocity, referee Carlos Padilla, acting on the advice of the ringside physician, called a halt to "The Thrilla In Manila." It was determined both defending heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali and challenger Joe Frazier had absorbed too much punishment, and the bout was ruled a technical draw ...

Sound absurd? Outrageous? Incomprehensible? Well, had the fight been held in New Jersey, that's how it might have played out.

If, on January 13, New Jersey ringside physician Frank B. Doggett and boxing commissioner Larry Hazzard offered a preview of how boxing will be officiated in the 21st century, stop the world because I want to get off. In an ESPN-televised battle for the vacant NABF light heavyweight title, Prince Charles Williams and Merqui Sosa swapped powerpunches for seven rounds at Bally's Park Place in Atlantic City. Both fighters were marked by the end of the first round, with Williams suffering a cut over his left eye and Sosa squinting through a swollen right eye. The pace never slowed, and by the end of the fifth, 2-1 underdog Sosa had gained control. That's when, after examining both fighters, Doggett called a halt. But it wasn't the cut over Williams' eye that convinced the doctor to intervene. Nor was it Sosa's limited vision. The fight was too brutal, Doggett decided, and the bout, which was in essence a double-TKO, was ruled a technical draw.

"The injuries were not the reason the fight was stopped," Doggett emphasized at a postfight press conference. "I felt enough was enough."

"The doctor ruled that this bout was [too] dangerous to continue," said Hazzard. "I'm not God; I'm not going to overrule the doctor. I'm going to follow his guidance ... This was unprecedented. The NABF could not come up with a rule, and neither could we."

The initial postfight controversy revolved around whether the outcome should have been determined by the judges. (Ahead on all three cards, Sosa would have won by technical decision.) What Hazzard ultimately decided was that given the circumstances of the stoppage, a draw was the only fair verdict. I don't have a problem with that. But what about the bigger picture? What about the fact that a scheduled 12-rounder between world-class fighters was halted because the ringside physician deemed it excessively violent?

I don't want to come off as a blood-lusting lout; in one sense, Doggett, a veteran official, should be commended for prioritizing the fighters' health. At the same time, by stopping an all-action fight, he and Hazzard instantly became apologists for the violence of boxing. Let's not close our eyes and pretend the sport isn't something it very plainly is. As one ringside observer put it, Doggett and Hazzard's decision serves as ammunition for the AMA and others who call for a ban of boxing. Even those who support the sport, they can claim, view it as occasionally unacceptable.

Had Doggett recommended the fight be stopped because one fighter or the other had sponged too many punches, I'd have accepted his decision. But Williams-Sosa, as terrifically savage as it was, was a competitive and fair fight between superbly conditioned athletes who understood and accepted the inherent risk involved.

We should never, ever have to say we're sorry for a great fight.

***

The shocking death of Carlos Monzon is briefly covered in "Round One." Look for a full-length feature article on the legendary former middleweight champion in next month's issue.

Steve Farhood
Editor-in-Chief

Volume 74, No. 5 **May 1995**

The RING

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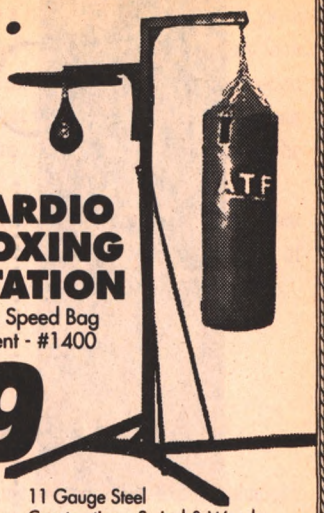

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COME OUT WRITING

We welcome your letters, which may be edited for reasons of space and clarity. Send your comments to Come Out Writing, The Ring, P.O. Box 1148, Ft. Washington, PA 19034

GAMACHE GOES DOWN

I just witnessed Joey Gamache's career come to an end. To anyone living outside of Maine, that probably doesn't mean too much. But everyone living in the Pine Tree State lost a hero.

Virginia has Pernell and North Dakota has Virgil. We had Joey. He was one of only a few fighters from Maine, and one who fought for pride, not money. Do you know how much he earned for his title bout with WBA lightweight champion Nazarov Olzubek? Not one red cent! "This isn't about money," he said. "This is about regaining a championship." If that's not dedication, I don't know what is.

Thanks for the ride, Joey. You brought interest in the sport to a state that badly needed it. And keep your head up. As far as I'm concerned, you'll always be a champion.

TREVER BENEDICT
Augusta, ME

Editor's note: For the record, while we're sure Gamache appreciates reader Benedict's sentiment, his career hasn't come to an end. After his second-round knockout loss to Olzubek, he spoke of fighting on. Said his father, Joey Gamache Sr., "He won't box again until April at the earliest. There's talk of maybe a Troy Dorsey or a Greg Haugen type of fight, which will tell us where he's at."

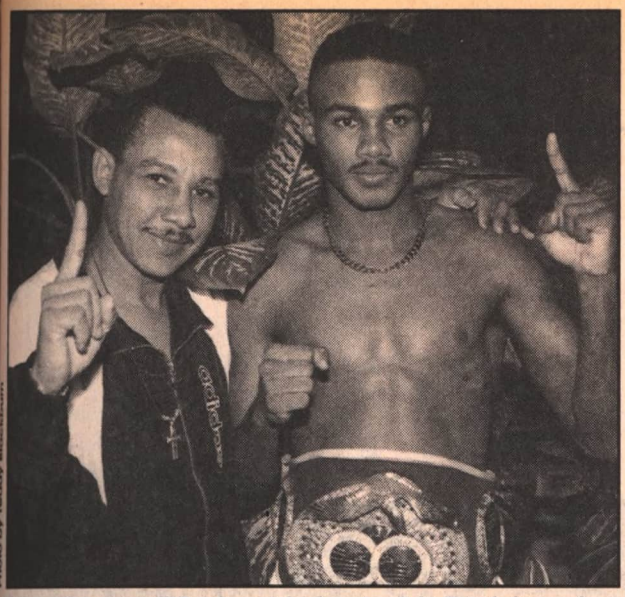
Muhammad Ali still stands out in a crowd and still makes fans feel special. Unlike some sports celebrities, "The Greatest" signs autographs with patience and enthusiasm.

WHY HE'S "THE GREATEST"

In December, I attended a Legends Autographs signing at the Showboat Hotel in Atlantic City. The program featured Sandy Koufax, Mickey Mantle, Joe Namath, and Muhammad Ali. Standing in line and waiting for my turn to meet "The Greatest," I overheard several fans commenting on some of the athletes present, as well as others they knew from past signings. Sadly, the majority of the stories recounted negative experiences with sports heroes—including some of those signing at the show I was attending—with one exception. No one had a bad word to say about the one-time and still Greatest.

Ali remains a charismatic figure of almost mythical proportions for one reason: He loves people and goes out of his way to show it. Given his present condition, signing 500 autographs in a one-day session seems a physically arduous task, but the champ does it. And between signatures, he shakes hands, kisses babies, poses for photos, and does sleight-of-hand. But the real magic is Ali himself. His smile makes you feel special. Thanks, Muhammad, for the magic and the memories.

ERIC J. MURRAY
Ottawa, Ontario



Father and son agree IBF welterweight champion Felix Trinidad is number-one. Now if we can only get him in the ring with Pernell Whitaker ...

FELIX IS THE CAT'S MEOW

I've been watching Puerto Rican assassin Felix Trinidad for a while now, and after witnessing his complete annihilations of Yori Boy Campas and Oba Carr, I'm convinced he's the best welterweight in the world. Moreover, he's one of the best fighters, pound-for-pound, too. Offensively, he's got the complete repertoire: a solid jab, a terrifying left hook, and a devastating right cross. And his uppercuts aren't too shabby, either. Trinidad would knock out Terry Norris, Julio Cesar Vasquez, Ike Quartey, Frankie Randall, Julio Cesar Chavez, and that other champion, Pernell Whitaker. "Tito" is the real deal, believe me.

JEREMY MIRANDA
Las Vegas, NV

ON BRELAND AND SUGAR RAY

I strongly disagree with two points that were made in your February 1995 issue. Firstly, in referring to five fighters who were ruined by kayo defeats ("Can Lennox Lewis Rebound From Disaster? Why A Kayo Loss Isn't *Always* The End"), you quite mistakenly included Mark Breland. The four other fighters you mentioned, Ruby Goldstein, Lou Nova, Chuck Davey, and Gerry Cooney, struggled to maintain contender status following their setbacks. On the other hand, after his kayo loss to Marlon Starling, Breland picked himself up—and picked up another world welterweight title. Evidence? Among his successful defenses was his utter destruction of Lloyd Honeyghan. That ranks as the most dominant, commanding display I've ever seen. It was only after Breland's thrilling war with unbeaten Aaron Davis and his subsequent rise in weight that he seemed to lose his abilities.

Secondly, in "Time Capsules," there is a photo of Sugar Ray Robinson vs. Robert Villemain. Stanley Weston describes Robinson's punch as being "the perfect uppercut." Take another glimpse of the photo, without the bias most writers display for old-time fighters. Sure, Sugar Ray was great, but he's throwing a right uppercut with his left glove by his hip! Rarely do you see an image of a fighter so absolutely open for a counter right hand. In other circumstances, say Michael Nunn's unexpected loss to James Toney, throwing an uppercut while a full step back from your opponent, with your other hand by your hip, is rightfully thought to be courting disaster.

Whether it's predicting Breland's greatness, then dismissing him when he proves to have a successful career, or assuming any boxing pose of Robinson's is perfect, writers should stay away from preconceived notions.

THEO NEWCOMB
Carmel, CA

IN DEFENSE OF CHAVEZ

I have never before written to a boxing magazine, but a local columnist in Houston recently bashed Julio Cesar Chavez and wrote of his imminent demise. This propelled me off my seat and inspired me to respond.

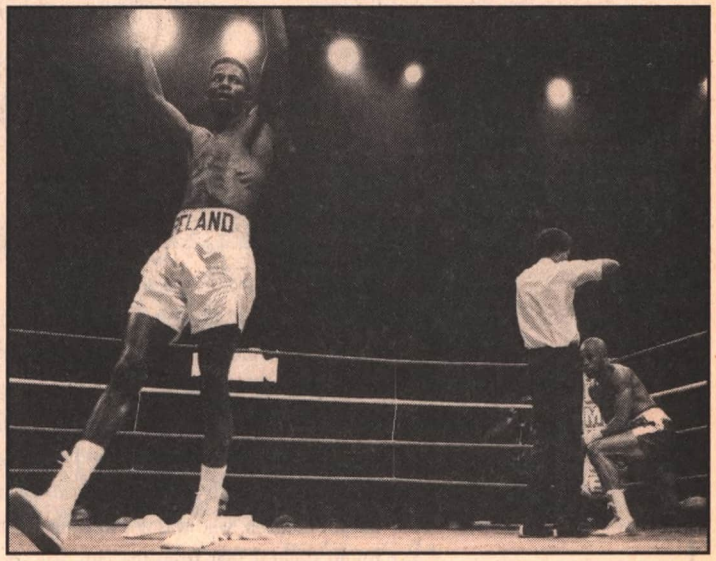
It was suggested Frankie Randall twice beat Chavez. This is absolutely ludicrous. Randall beat Chavez only once, and if referee Richard Steele hadn't deducted points in the first fight, "J.C. Superstar" would have won that fight, too.

Also, one knockdown suffered in 90-plus fights does not mean Chavez is on his last legs. I recall American dream boy Sugar Ray Leonard twice getting floored by Thomas Hearns in their rematch, and the judges still awarded Leonard a draw.

Chavez is undoubtedly the greatest active fighter from Mexico. Perhaps because the border is only 300 miles from Houston, most American writers favor their own over a fighter who has set records and never shied away from a good fight.

One final note: 1995 will be the year of redemption for Chavez. He will beat Frankie Randall by decision and knock out Pernell Whitaker.

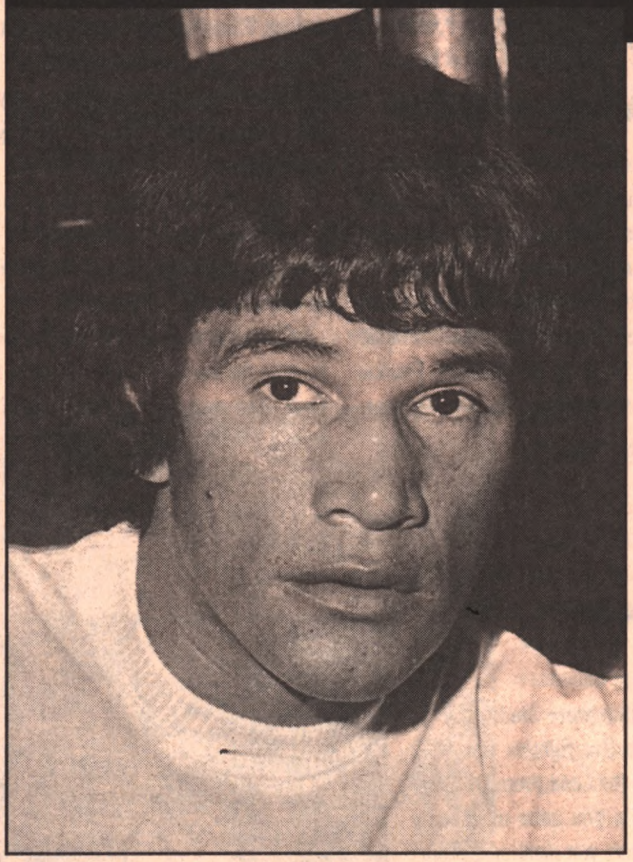
SERGIO LIRA
Houston, TX ■



Mark Breland crushed Lloyd Honeyghan in 1990, proof to reader Theo Newcomb that the two-time welterweight champion had rebounded from his devastating kayo loss to Marlon Starling. In Breland's next defense, he was kayoed by Aaron Davis.

ROUND ONE

CARLOS MONZON, 1942-1995



On January 8, record-setting former middleweight champion Carlos Monzon died in a car accident near his hometown of Sante Fe, Argentina. He was 52.

Monzon, who had been incarcerated since 1989 for the murder of his lover, Alicia Muniz, was driving back to prison—he had been permitted home visits—when his Renault 19 left the road and turned several times in the air. Monzon, who was not wearing a seat belt, was found several feet from the car. His travel mates included policeman Geronimo Motura, who was also killed, and Alicia Guadalupe Sesia, who survived. Police blamed the accident on "a human mistake."

The reaction in Argentina was mixed. In Sante Fe, where Monzon overcame poverty to become a legend, more than 30,000 mourners lined the streets on the day of his funeral. In other parts of the country, he was dismissed as a murderer whose violent streak remained consistent—and unchecked—throughout his life.

Monzon turned pro in 1963. He lost once that year, and twice more in 1964, then went undefeated through 81 bouts and his retirement in 1977. A middleweight throughout his career, he won the world title by shocking the heavily hyped Nino Benvenuti by 12th-round kayo in November 1970. He went on to make a division-record 14 successful defenses before exiting as champion. Among his title fight victims were Emile Griffith, Bennie Briscoe, Rodrigo Valdes, Denny Moyer, Jean-Claude Bouttier, Jose Napoles, and Tony Mundine. Monzon's overall record was 89-3-8 (61) with 1 no-contest.

At the time of his death, Monzon was on the verge of obtaining parole. But like so many middleweight champions of the past, he was destined for a tragic fate. Argentina's greatest fighter was found dead under an open sky, looking for freedom.

–Carlos Irusta

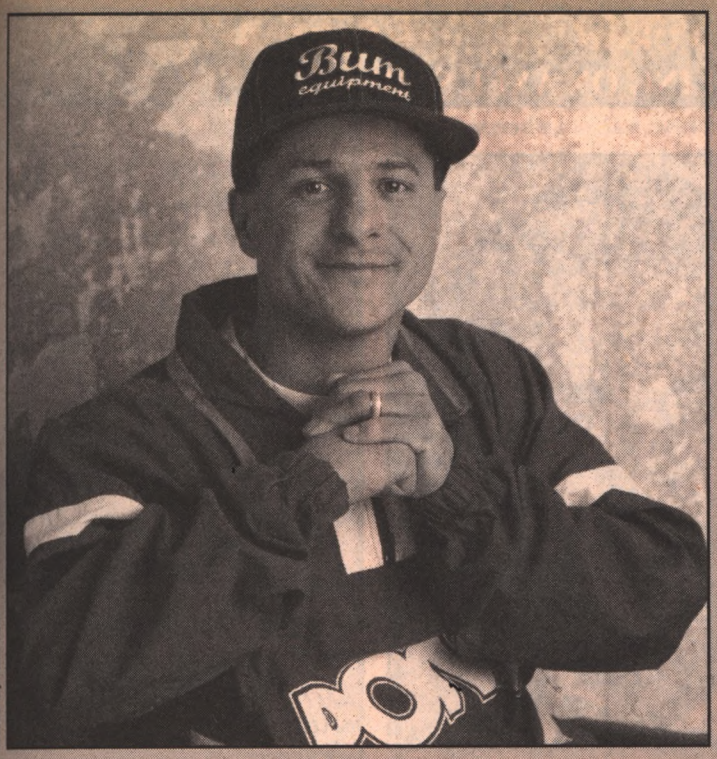


Photo by Kim Jew

Tapia: Charges dropped

POLICE BLOTTER

Police seized a pistol belonging to former junior flyweight champion **Michael Carbajal** to determine whether it was used to fire a dozen shots into the air during a disturbance at a party last September in Tempe, Arizona. Witnesses told police Carbajal, who was arrested but hasn't been charged, fired the shots after he and his friends were asked to leave the party. Said Carbajal's lawyer, **Ben Miranda**, "Michael was going to classes to get a permit to carry a concealed weapon. I think he wanted it for his personal protection" ... In Albuquerque, New Mexico, charges were dropped against junior bantamweight contender **Johnny Tapia**, who was arrested last July and charged with possessing a controlled substance and conspiracy to distribute when he and two friends allegedly tried to sell what they claimed was crack to an off-duty police officer. The substance was later identified as soap.

AND THE WINNER IS ...

The 1995 International Boxing Hall of Fame inductees, to be honored from June 8 to 11 in Canastota, New York:

From the Modern group: Wilfredo Gomez, Bob Montgomery, Fighting Harada, and Pascual Perez.

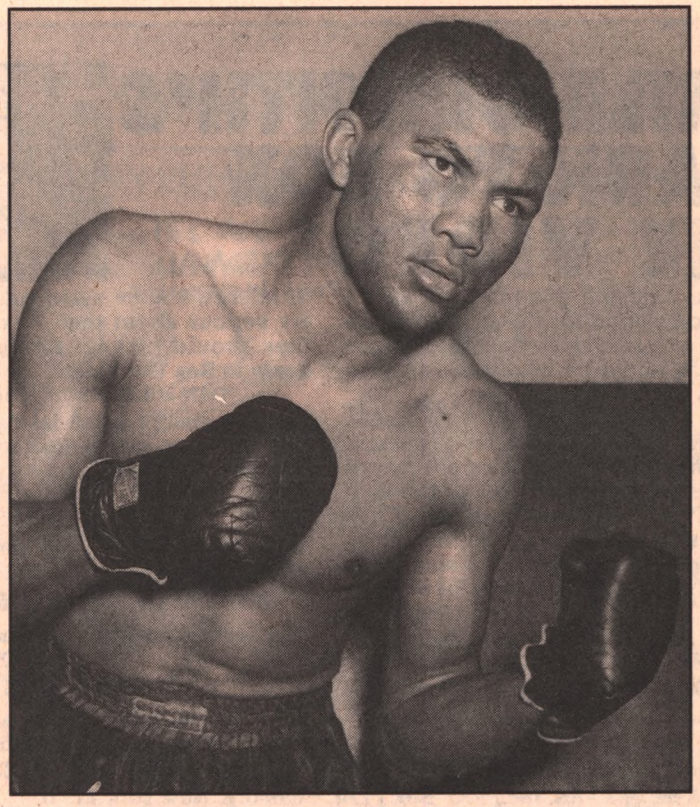
From the Old-timers group: Max Baer, Jack Dillon, Jack McAuliffe, Johnny Kilbane.

From the Pioneers group: former British heavyweight champions Tom Johnson and Jem Ward.

Non-participants group: referee Arthur Mercante, trainer and manager Cus D'Amato, referee George Siler, promoter Jack Solomons, author and historian Gilbert Odd.

***

The winners of the Boxing Writers Association of America awards for 1994: Fighter of the Year: George Foreman; Manager of the Year: George Foreman; Trainer of the Year: Teddy Atlas; Long and Meritorious Service: Willie Pep; the Nat Fleischer Award for Excellence in Boxing Journalism: Wallace Matthews. The BWAA awards dinner will be held in New York City on April 28.



Montgomery: Headed to the Hall

THE 10 OPPONENTS GEORGE FOREMAN DISMISSED BEFORE SETTLING ON AXEL SCHULZ

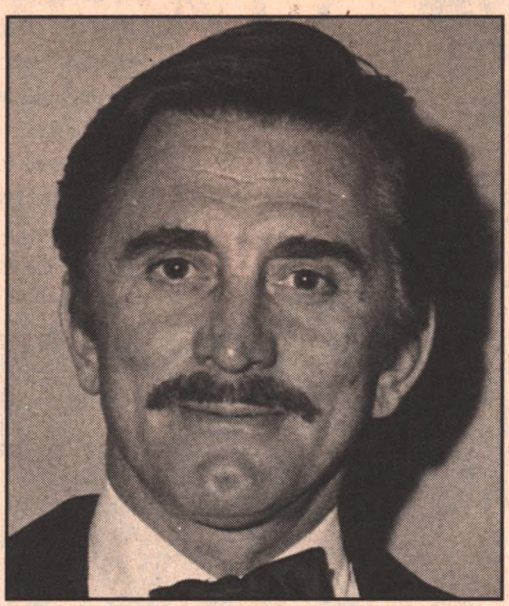
10. Kirk Douglas: On the down side since *Spartacus*, but rejected because his chin remains world-class.

9. Sophia Loren: "Style makes fights," said Foreman.

8. Don King: DK may be aging, but Foreman's camp figured the promoter would still provide more rounds than Lou Savarese.

7. Newt Gingrich: "All offense, no defense, and I won't have to go looking for him," said Foreman. "Besides, he's not the speaker of *my* house."

6. Tom Carvel: Promoters wanted to call it "The Thrilla In Vanilla." When told Carvel was dead, Foreman responded, "Then he's perfect."



Kirk Douglas: A world-class chin

5. Connie Chung: Dismissed after Foreman threatened to whisper in her ear, "Just between you and me ... ," and then smack her with a right cross.

4. Chiquita Gonzalez: All but made until Big George was told he wouldn't be permitted to brandish a fly swatter in the ring.

3. Macaulay Culkin: Ever since losing to Jimmy Young, Big George has wanted to beat a cutie.

2. O.J. Simpson: Beat "The Juice" to a pulp? The bout fell through when Foreman insisted Simpson wear handcuffs under his gloves.

1. Joe Hipp: A *real* fighter? Whatta you crazy?

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Pazienza: No friend of Foxwoods

OUTSIDE THE ROPES

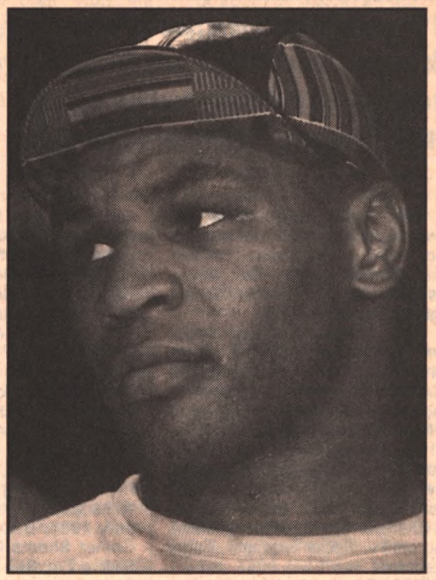
George Foreman was named the Associated Press' Male Athlete of the Year ... Foxwoods Casino has dismissed super middleweight **Vinny Pazienza** from his six-figure job as a special events host. After outpointing **Rafael Williams** at Foxwoods (Ledyard, Connecticut) last November, Pazienza described casino officials as "inexperienced with big-time boxing" ... Former NFL running back **Alonzo Highsmith**, 29, is launching a second career, as a heavyweight. He's been training for a year. "Ninety percent of the people will be coming to see me get knocked out," he said. Highsmith hasn't played pro football since 1990.

THE PUNCHLINE

"I'd have to use 18-ounce gloves. I'd have to tie my right hand behind my back, only use my left hand 10 times a round, and put one foot in cement."

-IBF super middleweight champion Roy Jones on a proposed defense against Vinny Pazienza

ANOTHER TYSON KAYO



Tyson scored his first prison kayo

According to *Star* magazine, Mike Tyson engaged in an unscheduled bout on Christmas Eve. Tyson, incarcerated at the Indiana Youth Facility, was handing out $200 worth of food and cigarettes he'd bought in the prison commissary when confronted by the leader of a prison gang. Tyson's opponent, it seems, regularly buys such items, then sells them to inmates at a profit.

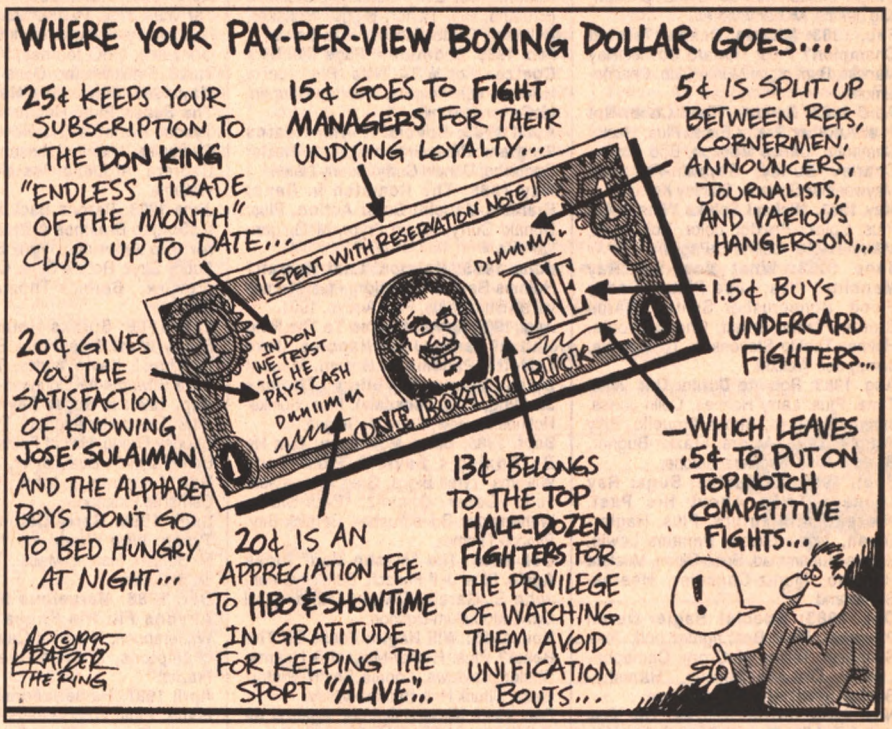
"The gang was mad at Mike for giving away stuff for nothing," the *Star* quoted a prison source. "The leader yelled, 'You can't be doing this.'"

After Tyson shouted an obscenity, the gang leader lunged at the former heavyweight champion. As corrections officers rushed in, Tyson reportedly landed a blow that sent his opponent flying. Then "Iron Mike" turned to the officers and said, "Merry Christmas. You want some snacks?"

"Everybody laughed and the gang slunk out of the room," said the source.

Even if this story had been made up, we couldn't have imagined a better ending.

AL KRATZER'S VIEW



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Feb. 1982: Special Holmes-Cooney Program Section. Plus: Irish boxers, Sean O'Grady, Ali, Pedroza-Ballas, Braxton-Muhammad, Pedroza-Sibaca, Sanchez-Cowdell, Best of The Ring Anthology.

March 1982: Sanchez & Leonard: Fighters Of The Year! Plus: special year-end 100-page issue, fight, round, and upsets of year, Dwight Braxton, Benitez-Duran, Czyz-Sims, Pedroza-LaPorte.

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Dec. 1984: Hagler Hammers Hamsho. Plus: Barry McGuigan, boxing's best, James Broad, Julian Jackson, Pinklon Thomas.

Jan. 1985: Holmes-Bonecrusher Color Action. Plus: Gerry Cooney, pro debuts (Breland, Hill, Taylor, Biggs, Whitaker, Holyfield), Santos-Medal, Meza-Garza.

Feb. 1985: Showdown: Page Clobbers Coetzee For WBA Title. Plus: Larry Holmes, lightweights, Cooney-Chaplin, McCallum-Minchillo.

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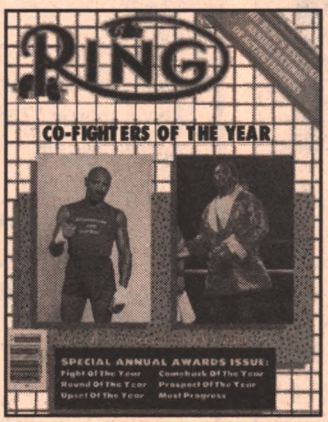

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3126/11-94

THE RING RATINGS

For Period Ended January 26, 1995

Jorge Castro

Bernard Hopkins

Ed Hopson

Hector Acero-Sanchez

Harold Grey

Johnny Tapia

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.

Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.

These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

Ratings By The Editors

Records By Fight Fax Inc.

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1. **GEORGE FOREMAN** — Houston, TX *73-4 (WBA/IBF Champ)*
2. **OLIVER McCALL** — Chicago, IL *25-5 (WBC Champ)*
3. **RIDDICK BOWE** — Fort Washington, MD *35-1*
4. **MICHAEL MOORER** — Detroit, MI *35-0*
5. **LENNOX LEWIS** — England *25-1*
6. **HERBIE HIDE** — England *26-0*
7. **LARRY HOLMES** — Easton, PA *61-4*
8. **HENRY AKINWANDE** — England *24-0-1*
9. **JORGE LUIS GONZALEZ** — Las Vegas, NV *22-0*
10. **LIONEL BUTLER** — Houston, TX *22-10-1*

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 195 pounds

1. **ORLIN NORRIS** — Campo, CA *42-3 (WBA Champ)*
2. **AL COLE** — Spring Valley, NY *25-1 (IBF Champ)*
3. **ANACLET WAMBA** — France *45-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
4. **ADOLPHO WASHINGTON** — Lexington, KY *24-2-2*
5. **SERGEI KOBOZEV** — Brooklyn, NY *20-0*
6. **CARL THOMPSON** — England *18-3*
7. **ARTHUR WILLIAMS** — Las Vegas, NV *23-3-1*
8. **ALEXANDER GUROV** — Ukraine, *13-0-1*
9. **KENNY KEENE** — Emmett, ID *30-0*
10. **MARCELO DOMINGUEZ** — Argentina *14-1-1*

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 175 pounds

1. **VIRGIL HILL** — Bismarck, ND *39-1 (WBA Champ)*
2. **MIKE McCALLUM** — Brooklyn, NY *47-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
3. **HENRY MASKE** — Germany *25-0 (IBF Champ)*
4. **JAMES TONEY** — Ann Arbor, MI *44-1-2*
5. **FABRICE TIOZZO** — France *30-1*
6. **DARIUSZ MICHALCZEWSKI** — Germany *25-0*
7. **MERQUI SOSA** — New York, NY *24-4-2*
8. **PRINCE CHARLES WILLIAMS** — Mansfield, OH *36-6-3*
9. **EGERTON MARCUS** — Canada *14-0*
10. **MONTELL GRIFFIN** — Chicago, IL *14-0*

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

1. **ROY JONES** — Pensacola, FL *27-0 (IBF Champ)*
2. **CHRIS EUBANK** — England *41-0-2*
3. **NIGEL BENN** — England *39-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
4. **GERALD McCLELLAN** — Freeport, IL *31-2*
5. **FRANK LILES** — N. Hollywood, CA *26-1 (WBA Champ)*
6. **VINNY PAZIENZA** — Cranston, RI *40-5*
7. **TIM LITTLES** — Flint, MI *24-1*
8. **FREDERIC SEILLIER** — France *39-5-2*
9. **RAY CLOSE** — N. Ireland *20-3-1*
10. **GRACIANO ROCCHIGIANI** — Germany *37-1-1*

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 160 pounds

1. **JORGE CASTRO** — Argentina *96-4-2 (WBA Champ)*
2. **BERNARD HOPKINS** — Philadelphia, PA *26-2-1*
3. **QUINCY TAYLOR** — Dallas, TX *24-3*
4. **JOHN DAVID JACKSON** — Seattle, WA *32-1*
5. **REGGIE JOHNSON** — Houston, TX *35-4-1*
6. **SEGUNDO MERCADO** — Ecuador *18-2-1*
7. **STEVE COLLINS** — Ireland *28-3*
8. **JOE LIPSEY** — Lansing, MI *24-0*
9. **AGOSTINO CARDAMONE** — Italy *24-0*
10. **RODNEY TONEY** — Campo, CA *19-1-2*

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 154 pounds

1. **JULIO CESAR VASQUEZ** — Argentina 52-1 (WBA Champ)
2. **TERRY NORRIS** — Mission Valley, CA 38-5
3. **VINCENT PETTWAY** — Baltimore, MD 37-4-1 (IBF Champ)
4. **VERNO PHILLIPS** — New York, NY 24-4-1
5. **BUDDY McGIRT** — Hauppauge, NY 65-4-1
6. **GIANFRANCO ROSI** — Italy 57-4-1
7. **JULIO CESAR GREEN** — Brooklyn, NY 18-1
8. **SIMON BROWN** — Mount Airy, MD 42-3
9. **RAUL MARQUEZ** — Houston, TX 19-0
10. **LAURENT BOUDOUANI** — France 28-2

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 147 pounds

1. **PERNELL WHITAKER** — Norfolk, VA 34-1-1 (WBC Champ)
2. **FELIX TRINIDAD** — Puerto Rico 25-0 (IBF Champ)
3. **IKE QUARTEY** — Ghana 27-0 (WBA Champ)
4. **CRISANTO ESPANA** — N. Ireland 30-1
5. **YORI BOY CAMPAS** — Mexico 56-1
6. **WILFREDO RIVERA** — Puerto Rico 19-0-1
7. **OBA CARR** — Detroit, MI 32-1
8. **DERRELL COLEY** — Capitol Heights, MD 25-0-2
9. **EAMONN LOUGHRAN** — Ireland 24-1-1
10. **ANDREW MURRAY** — Guyana 17-2

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 140 pounds

1. **FRANKIE RANDALL** — Warren, OH 51-3-1 (WBA Champ)
2. **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ** — Mexico 92-1-1 (WBC Champ)
3. **JAKE RODRIGUEZ** — Brentwood, NY 26-2-2 (IBF Champ)
4. **KOSTYA TSZYU** — Australia 13-0
5. **JUAN COGGI** — Argentina 67-3-2
6. **DAVID KAMAU** — Los Angeles, CA 25-0
7. **GIOVANNI PARISI** — Italy 29-1
8. **RAY OLIVEIRA** — Falls River, MA 24-5
9. **DARRYLL TYSON** — Washington, D.C. 44-6-1
10. **JAN BERGMAN** — South Africa 25-0

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 135 pounds

1. **MIGUEL ANGEL GONZALEZ** — Mexico 35-0 (WBC Champ)
2. **RAFAEL RUELAS** — Arleta, CA 42-1 (IBF Champ)
3. **NAZAROV OLZUBEK** — Japan 20-0 (WBA Champ)
4. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA** — Montebello, CA 16-0
5. **MIGUEL JULIO** — Colombia 29-1-1
6. **LEAVANDER JOHNSON** — Atlantic City, NJ 22-1-1
7. **SHANE MOSLEY** — Pomona, CA 16-0
8. **STEVE JOHNSTON** — Denver, CO 13-0
9. **BILLY SCHWER** — England 26-1
10. **IVAN ROBINSON** — Delran, NJ 16-0

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 130 pounds

1. **JOHN-JOHN MOLINA** — Puerto Rico 36-3 (IBF Champ)
2. **GABE RUELAS** — Arleta, CA 39-2 (WBC Champ)
3. **GENARO HERNANDEZ** — Los Angeles, CA 31-0-1 (WBA Champ)
4. **JESSE JAMES LEIJA** — San Antonio, TX 28-1-2
5. **AZUMAH NELSON** — Ghana 37-3-2
6. **FREDDIE LIBERATORE** — Bayside, NY 20-3-1
7. **REGGIE TUUR** — Whitestone, NY 36-3-1
8. **ARTURO GATTI** — Jersey City, NJ 19-1
9. **VICTOR HUGO PAZ** — Argentina 51-1-1
10. **ED HOPSON** — St. Louis, MO 25-0

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 126 pounds

1. **ALEJANDRO GONZALEZ** — Mexico 35-2 (WBC Champ)
2. **TOM JOHNSON** — Detroit, MI 37-2-1 (IBF Champ)
3. **STEVE ROBINSON** — Wales 19-9-1
4. **ELOY ROJAS** — Venezuela 30-1-1 (WBA Champ)
5. **KEVIN KELLEY** — Flushing, NY 41-1
6. **YUNG KYUN PARK** — South Korea 28-2-1
7. **TRACY PATTERSON** — Highland, NY 51-3-1
8. **EVER BELENO** — Colombia 29-1
9. **ORLANDO SOTO** — Panama 24-1
10. **MANUEL MEDINA** — Mexico 49-5

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 122 pounds

1. **VUYANI BUNGU** — South Africa 25-2 (IBF Champ)
2. **WILFREDO VASQUEZ** — Puerto Rico 42-6-3 (WBA Champ)
3. **HECTOR ACERO-SANCHEZ** — New York, NY 31-2-2 (WBC Champ)
4. **ORLANDO CANIZALES** — Laredo, TX 38-2-1
5. **JULIO GERVACIO** — Puerto Rico 30-3-2
6. **KENNEDY McKINNEY** — Las Vegas, NV 27-1-1
7. **WELCOME NCITA** — South Africa 33-2
8. **JESUS SALUD** — San Diego, CA 49-6
9. **JUAN POLO-PEREZ** — Colombia 35-10-2
10. **EDDIE CROFT** — San Mateo, CA 21-1-1

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 118 pounds

1. **YASUEI YAKUSHIJI** — Japan 23-2-1 (WBC Champ)
2. **DAORUNG MP PETROLEUM** — Thailand 54-4-1 (WBA Champ)
3. **WAYNE McCULLOUGH** — Las Vegas, NV 15-0
4. **NASEEM HAMED** — England 15-0
5. **ELIECER JULIO** — Colombia 28-1
6. **MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA** — Mexico 34-0
7. **HAROLD MESTRE** — Colombia 21-2 (IBF Champ)
8. **SERGIO REYES** — Fort Worth, TX 10-1
9. **AL KOTEY** — England 19-1
10. **NANA KONADU** — Ghana 33-2

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 115 pounds

1. **HAROLD GREY** — Colombia 18-0 (IBF Champ)
2. **HIROSHI KAWASHIMA** — Japan 16-2-1 (WBC Champ)
3. **JOHNNY TAPIA** — Albuquerque, NM 28-0-1
4. **DANNY ROMERO** — Albuquerque, NM 22-0
5. **HYUNG CHUL LEE** — South Korea 18-4 (WBA Champ)
6. **JULIO BORBOA** — Mexico 23-5
7. **KHAOYAI MAHASARAKAM** — Thailand 49-4
8. **CECILIO ESPINO** — Huntington Park, CA 29-3-1
9. **DAVID GRIMAN** — Venezuela 20-2
10. **SATOSHI IIDA** — Japan 16-0

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 112 pounds

1. **YURI ARBACHAKOV** — Japan 19-0 (WBC Champ)
2. **SAN SOR PLOENCHIT** — Thailand 21-0 (WBA Champ)
3. **MARK JOHNSON** — Washington, D.C. 21-1
4. **MIGUEL MARTINEZ** — Mexico 28-7-1
5. **JOSE LUIS ZEPEDA** — Mexico 23-12-2
6. **ISAIAS ZAMUDIO** — Blythe, CA 37-5-1
7. **JAKE MATLALA** — South Africa 42-9-1
8. **ALBERTO JIMENEZ** — Mexico 27-3-2
9. **ROBBIE REGAN** — Wales 15-1-3
10. **CHATCHAI ELITE-GYM** — Thailand 18-0

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 108 pounds

1. **CHIQUITA GONZALEZ** — Mexico 40-2 (WBC/IBF Champ)
2. **MICHAEL CARBAJAL** — Phoenix, AZ 32-2
3. **LEO GAMEZ** — Venezuela 27-3-1 (WBA Champ)
4. **MELCHOR COB CASTRO** — Mexico 42-4-4
5. **CARLOS MURILLO** — Panama 27-2
6. **JESUS CHONG** — Mexico 27-5
7. **JOSE DeJESUS** — Puerto Rico 29-2-1
8. **ERIC GRIFFIN** — Jasper, TN 14-2
9. **ROBINSON CUESTA** — Panama 23-1
10. **HADAO CP GYM** — Thailand 22-9-1

POUND-FOR-POUND

1. **PERNELL WHITAKER** — Welterweight
2. **ROY JONES** — Super Middleweight
3. **RICARDO LOPEZ** — Strawweight
4. **CHIQUITA GONZALEZ** — Junior Flyweight
5. **FRANKIE RANDALL** — Junior Welterweight
6. **FELIX TRINIDAD** — Welterweight
7. **GERALD McCLELLAN** — Super Middleweight
8. **MIGUEL ANGEL GONZALEZ** — Lightweight
9. **JAMES TONEY** — Light Heavyweight
10. **YURI ARBACHAKOV** — Flyweight

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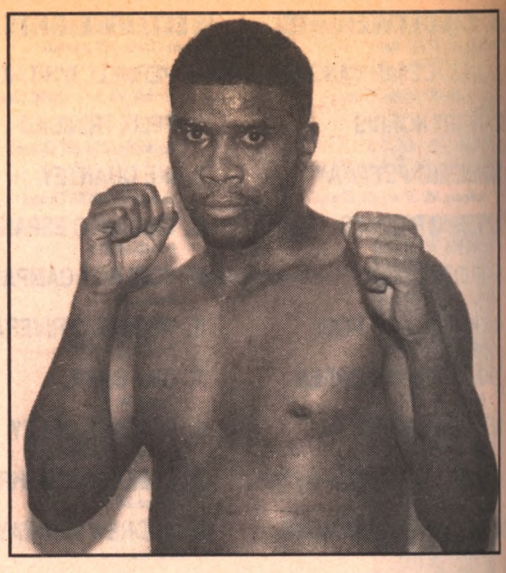


PRO RECORD

1991		
March 1	Larry Cureton, Atlantic City	KO 1
April 18	Charlton Hollis, Atlantic City	KO 1
1992		
Feb. 14	Monte Carr, Clearwater, FL	KO 1
March 6	Lazaro Almanza, Callicoon, NY	W 4
July 9	Mike Whitfield, Atlantic City	W 4
July 31	Jose Rohena, Bushkill, PA	KO 1
Sept. 17	Mike Robinson, New York City	KO 3
Dec. 11	Ken Jackson, New York City	KO 4
1993		
Jan. 30	Brian Watson, New York City	KO 3
Feb. 18	Traore Ali, New York City	KO 3
June 22	Tim Noble, Atlantic City	W 8
Oct. 2	Jim Huffman, Atlantic City	W 8
1994		
Feb. 5	William Morris, Las Vegas	L 8
April 2	Tyrell Biggs, Tokyo	KO 3
May 7	Mike Evans, Atlantic City	W 10
July 22	Chris Cole, St. Croix	KO 1
Oct. 1	Craig Payne, Boston	KO 10
Dec. 15	Sam Hampton, Ledyard, CT	KO 2
1995		
Jan. 7	Mike Faulkner, Warwick, RI	W 10

FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KO
19	18	1	0	12

Ray Anis

Heavyweight

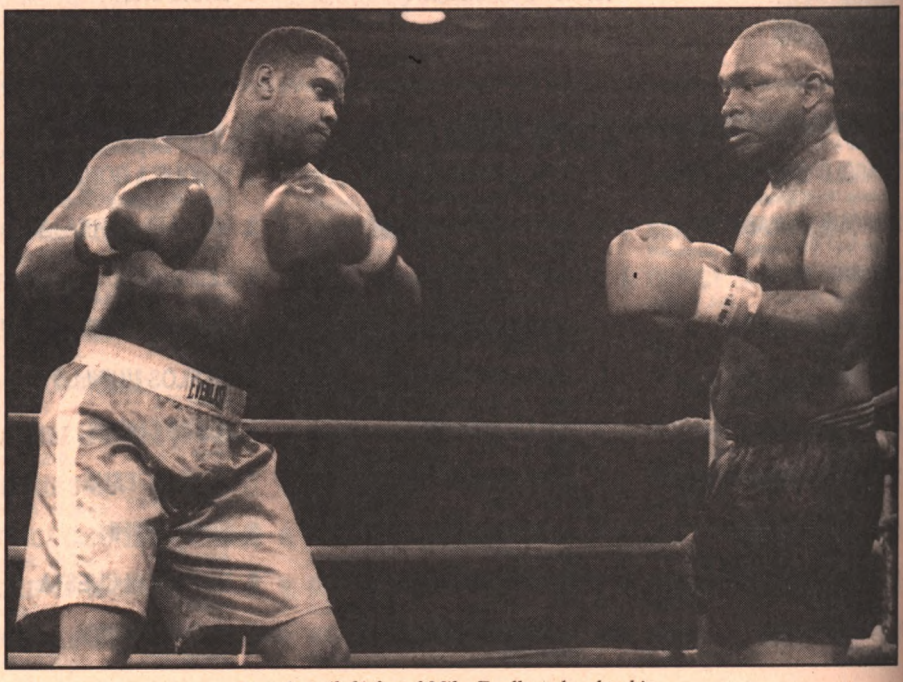
Photos by Ray Bailey

By Jay N. Miller

Nobody wants to fight Ray Anis. Matters have gotten to the point where the Anis camp almost welcomed a subpar effort against wily survivor Mike Faulkner in the hopes it would lure a big-name heavyweight into taking a chance against the bomber from Brooklyn.

In January, the 27-year-old Anis had been added to promoter Cedric Kushner's "Heavyweight Explosion" card on one week's notice. A day before the bout, his original foe, Willie Jackson, dropped out, and Faulkner was hastily summoned from Memphis. He arrived with tennis shoes, brown socks, torn trunks, no cup, and no intention of getting hurt. Bending over to his left to an extreme degree, Faulkner seemed to invite right

(Continued on page 61)



Anis (left) found Mike Faulkner hard to hit

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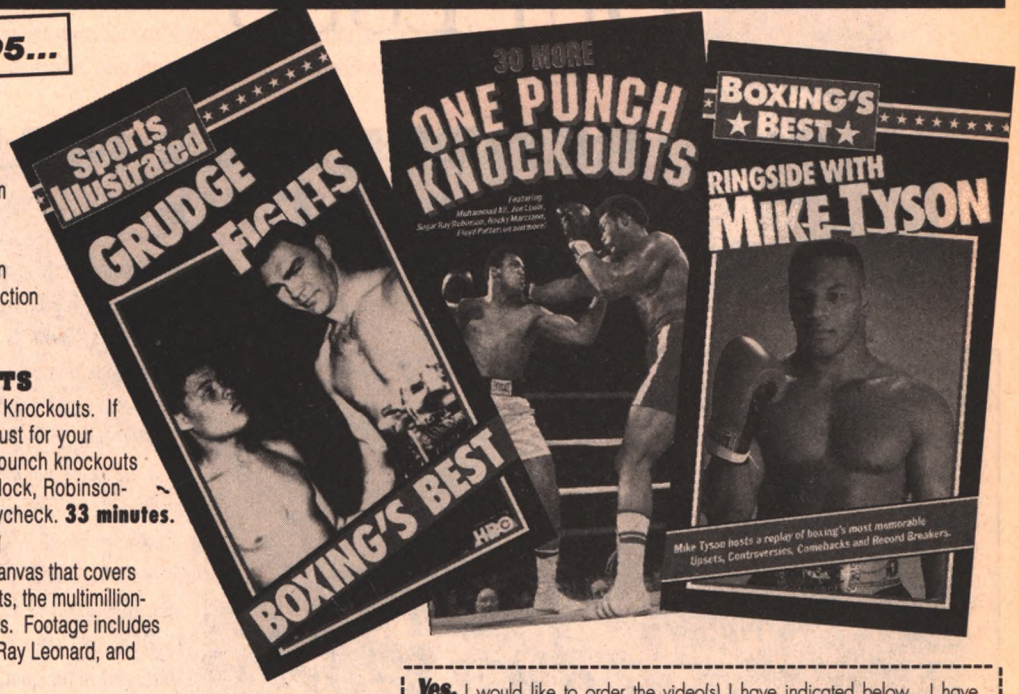

GRUDGE FIGHTS

The greatest grudge fights in boxing history are presented in this non-stop action video. See Jack Dempsey try to regain the title from Gene Tunney and Joe Louis seek revenge against Max Schmeling. Watch Joe Walcott battle Ezzard Charles and Rocky Marciano in epic wars, the Ali Frazier trilogy, plus a collection of rare footage that recounts boxing's most memorable bouts. **58 minutes.**

MORE ONE-PUNCH KNOCKOUTS

The exciting followup to Great One-Punch Knockouts. If you like knockout action, this video is a must for your collection. You'll see these fantastic one-punch knockouts and many more: Ali-Liston II, Louis-Braddock, Robinson-Fullmer, Patterson-Johansson II, Louis-Paycheck. **33 minutes.**

RINGSIDE WITH MIKE TYSON

Mike Tyson puts it all together in a colorful canvas that covers the main events, the controversies, the upsets, the multimillion-dollar gates, the records, and the comebacks. Footage includes Sonny Liston, Jake LaMotta, Ray Robinson, Ray Leonard, and much more. **44 minutes.**

THE MIDDLEWEIGHTS

The most skillful and devastating middleweights in the history of boxing are profiled in this fast-moving video. Watch stellar performances by Stanley Ketchel, Sugar Ray Robinson, and Marcel Cerdan. Also includes Rocky Graziano, Jake LaMotta, Carlos Monzon, and many others. Hosted by Curt Gowdy and Floyd Patterson. **58 minutes.**

BOXING'S GREATEST CHAMPIONS

Match wits with the Boxing Writers of America as they choose the best fighter of all-time from each division and then debate who deserves the title of the Greatest Fighter of All-Time. Includes explosive fight footage of Henry Armstrong, Benny Leonard, and Roberto Duran in the lightweight division; welterweights Barney Ross, Henry Armstrong, and Ray Robinson; middleweights Mickey Walker, Carlos Monzon, and Ray Robinson; light heavyweights Bob Fitzsimmons, Billy Conn, and Archie Moore; heavyweights Muhammad Ali, Rocky Marciano, and Joe Louis. **60 minutes.**

THE HEAVYWEIGHTS: "THE BIG PUNCHERS"

The biggest draw in sports today is the heavyweight knockout artist. This hard-hitting video explores boxing's most famous punchers. A sample of the action included in this video are clips of Dempsey's savage victory over Willard, the second Louis-Schmeling fight, Marciano vs. Walcott, and Frazier vs. Ali. **59 minutes.**

GREAT ONE-PUNCH KNOCKOUTS

You've got a ringside seat for a heart-stopping lineup of boxing's most exciting knockouts, including Muhammad Ali-George Foreman, Ezzard Charles-Joe Walcott, Jim Corbett-Bob Fitzsimmons, Rocky Marciano-Joe Walcott, Sugar Ray Robinson-Rocky Graziano, and many more. **30 minutes.**

THE HEAVYWEIGHTS: THE STYLISTS

Host Curt Gowdy highlights the careers of the sport's finest boxers. Beginning with Jim Corbett, you'll see challengers throughout history battle in some of the most striking film coverage ever assembled. Jack Johnson displays exquisite defensive skills, Floyd Patterson shows off his peek-a-boo style, Gene Tunney demonstrates the scientific approach to boxing, and Muhammad Ali exhibits the skills that made him "The Greatest," plus Walcott, Charles, and Louis. **57 minutes.**

TYSON AND THE HEAVYWEIGHTS

Join Mike Tyson as he takes a tour through the history of the heavyweight division. Tyson adds his own insight as he analyzes the styles and lives of the men who wore the heavyweight crown before him. This fantastic video includes rare footage of Jack Johnson, Jack Dempsey, Joe Louis, Rocky Marciano, Muhammad Ali, and, of course, Tyson himself. **51 minutes.**

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3136/11-94

RYAN OUT LOUD

By Jeff Ryan

REDEFINING MAN AND MOTTO

Fans of Roberto Duran didn't need a motto during the first act in their hero's career trilogy. What could they say that those fists of fury and a heartfelt "next time, I'll kill him," uttered over an unconscious rival, couldn't? In those days, Duran vanquished them all, whether it was Ray Lampkin knocked colder than his conqueror's heart or Ray Leonard turned into lumpy Sugar. Duran won a jeweled belt by belting Ken Buchanan in the jewels. He beat the bejeezus out of DeJesus. Knocked Palomino off his high horse. Tore the Guts out of Ishimatsu.

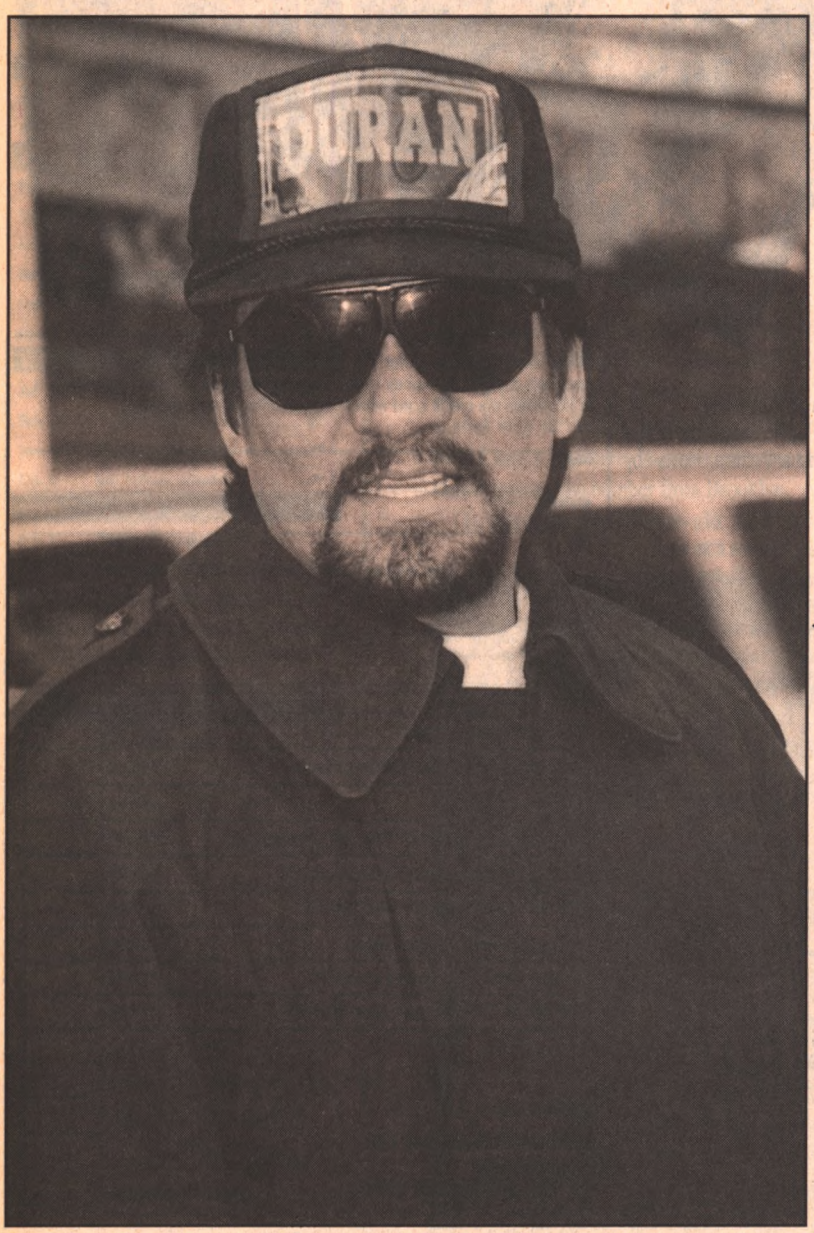


Photo by Teddy Blackburn

As if he needed a hat to identify himself. Duran is Duran, which, in 1995, isn't necessarily a good thing. At 43, "Hands Of Stone" is still showing up on our television sets.

The motto didn't surface until Act II of the drama, a time when "Hands Of Stone" began showing feet of clay and midsection of marshmallow. That's when "DURAN IS DURAN" started appearing on baseball caps and T-shirts and in the quotes of people cognizant of, though not panicked by, evidence of slowing reflexes and a punch that was losing more potency with each move up in weight.

"Duran Is Duran" meant that no matter what the birth certificate, the writers, the Las Vegas sports books, or any opponent emboldened by all of the above had to say, nobody could ever be certain those Hands of Stone had been completely eroded by the ravages of time and the elements. On any given night, or in any given round, or during any give-and-take, Duran was capable of magic. He might look shot against Wilfred Benitez, then come back to pulverize a favored Davey Moore. He could be buried by Thomas Hearns, then rise from the grave to upset Iran Barkley *five years* later. Somehow. Some way. Some day.

It must be the hope that one last cherry-on-the-sundae miracle will still be blown their way by the winds of fate that keeps Roberto's Robots, that loyal legion with the open wallets and the closed minds, forever coming back for mas. There they were again in January, investing $24.95 in Duran-Vinny Pazienza II, a pay-per-view entree that was half the fight, and thus twice the waste of money, Duran-Pazienza I was. As expected, the 43-year-old Duran did little more than chase, embrace, and get hit in the face. But his check cleared and he lived to go through the motions another day, so for the four-division former titlist, the night was an overwhelming success.

The motto "Duran Is Duran," unlike the fighter it paid

homage to, was retired a while ago. It is difficult to pinpoint exactly when, but it was well before the currently running "Act III: The Blunder Years" got underway. After watching Duran in the five years since his win over Barkley, however, it is apparent the motto, like everything else thought to be past its prime in boxing, is due for a comeback.

Duran *is* Duran, all right. These days, however, that means something else. The mention of his name conjures up these images: a has-been faking his way into and through undeserved opportunities, familiar coal-black eyes, but ones whose last embers of passion were doused a long time ago, and a sneer with nothing to back it up. Time after time, Duran lives up to those images. Duran is always Duran now, and that's no fun to watch.

Nonetheless, watching is what plenty of people still love to do. Pazienza surely wouldn't have landed two pay-per-view gigs against someone who couldn't lure viewers. Heck, the USA Network would gladly air Duran's tuneups against white, Midwestern stiffs until "Cholo" turns 50.) Don't fear for the brain damage Duran might suffer one day. Fear for the brain damage already suffered by the Duran diehards with the pay-per-view bills in their mailboxes, a group that lives by the saying, "Fool me 10 times, shame on you. Fool me 11 times, shame on me."

Why, exactly, does Duran remain a marquee name? (Maybe it's time to call any arena message board heralding his appearance a marquee de sade.) On the surface, that seems to be as difficult to answer as the question, "What is the meaning of life?" or the even more challenging, "Why did HBO give George Foreman an announcing job?" But it's not all that complex.

Some of the pro-Duran sentiment is no doubt a celebration of the fact that one of the great sports heroes of yesteryear still toils at the labor that made him a legend. He isn't known to a whole generation as only some name on a restaurant or a spokesman for Nobody Beats The Wiz. We can only tell our grade school-aged kids about Mickey Mantle and Joe Namath. But with the flick of a remote control switch on a Saturday night, we can show them one of the greatest fighters who ever lived.

Fossil-fueling Duran's popularity is also The Foreman Factor. There is no way to measure how many realists—people aware that boxing isn't baseball, where a Nolan Ryan can pitch a no-hitter in his 40s—started rethinking their position after Foreman's right hand crashed against the chin of Michael Moorer. But you can be sure there were many. Never mind that Duran doesn't hit as hard at super middleweight as Foreman does at heavyweight, or that, pound-for pound, Paz takes a better punch than Moorer. Hey, if a 46-year-old can do it, the thinking goes, why not a 43-year-old with a nastier mean streak?

It also hasn't hurt Duran that Tyson is locked up, Leonard is retired, Whitaker is dull, De La Hoya is still arriving, and most of today's champions have resumes that are shorter than Scotty Olson's pants legs.

Photo by Jason Ross Lavin

Against Pazienza, Duran's punches fell just short. In their first fight, he hurt Paz, even knocked him down. In the rematch, he was virtually impotent. Both Duran and Paz have big names, so they will continue to get big fights.

And let's not forget the boxing public's willingness to reward its heroes. Because Duran once humbled a Leonard who was greatly in need of humbling, stood up to a much bigger Hagler, wrote an Oscar-caliber script against Moore, rebounded from the disgrace of *No Mas*, and instilled a sense of pride in Latinos around the world, some people can't thank him enough. Some stand behind him because it's the least they can do for a guy who singlehandedly turned them on to the sport in the first place.

It is this type of blind loyalty that Duran and his promoter, Mike Acri, continue to tap into. And no matter how many times the buyers get suckered, the supply of Duran-iacs never dries up. So a Duran who is too used-up to spank even a Pazienza gets more last chances than a druggie in the NBA. And will surely get more yet. All the old man has to do is stay on his feet for 12 rounds and keep his sneer in shape. Meanwhile, Acri will make sure that his rebel without a cause is never a rebel without a clause—for a rematch. ■

THE RING'S EXCLUSIVE

PHOTO QUIZ TEST

Can you identify the fighters in these photos? Award yourself 10 points for each question you answer correctly. If you score a total of 90-100 points, consider yourself a world champion. If you score 70-80 points, you rate as a top-10 contender. If you score 50-60 points, you're a clubfighter at best. Less than 50 points? Eat another piece of cheesecake and forget about that morning roadwork.

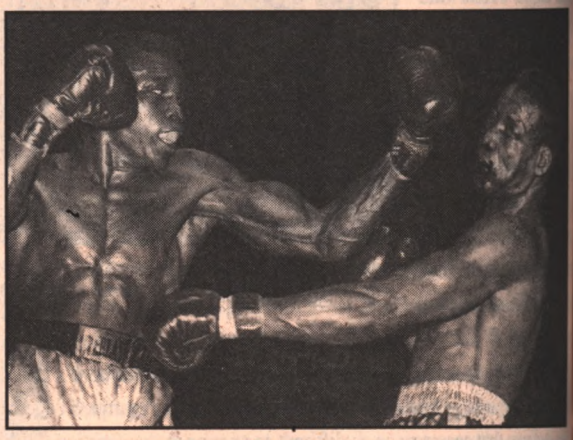
THIS MONTH: TITLE FIGHTS AT MADISON SQUARE GARDEN

1

There weren't too many world title fights at the Garden in the '80s, but this brawl, won by lightweight champ Ray Mancini, was a beauty. Name "Boom Boom's" kayo victim.

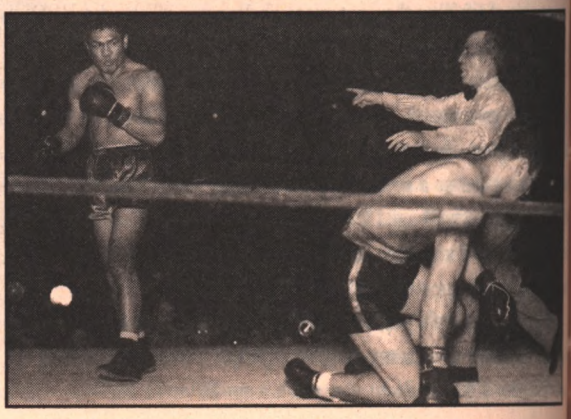
2

Benny (Kid) Paret made only one successful defense of the world welterweight title. His challenger, a highly touted contender, traded punches for all 15 rounds.



3

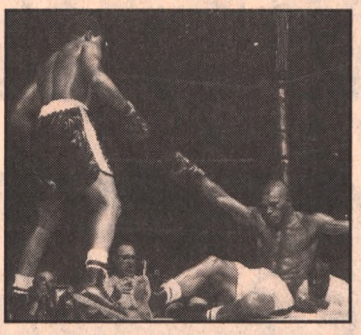
In 1939, hard-punching Ceferino Garcia won the world middleweight title at the Garden, halting what defending champion in the seventh round?



YOUR BOXING IQ

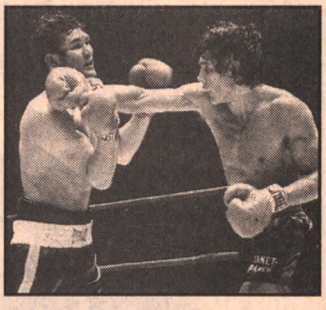
4

A 14th-round kayo loser to Archie Moore in 1954, this light heavyweight waited seven years for his next title shot—and made sure to capitalize.



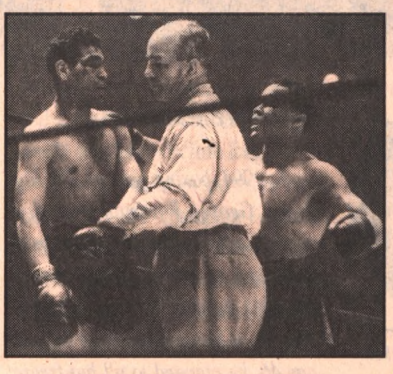
5

Globetrotting middleweight champion Carlos Monzon defended only once at the Garden. Name his opponent, who lasted 10 rounds.



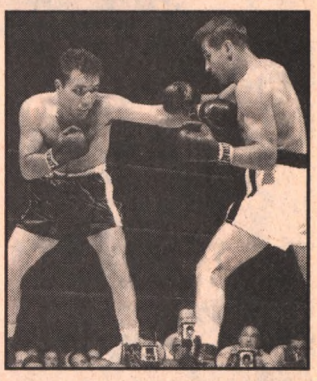
6

Three of welterweight champion Henry Armstrong's division-record 19 successful defenses came at the Garden. His victims included Ceferino Garcia, Davey Day, and this highly respected contender.



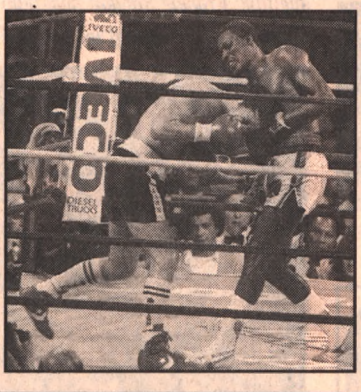
7

For Jake LaMotta, the Garden provided a hometown advantage. In 1950, a middleweight title bout vs. Rocky Graziano fell through, and "The Bronx Bull" outpointed this capable substitute.



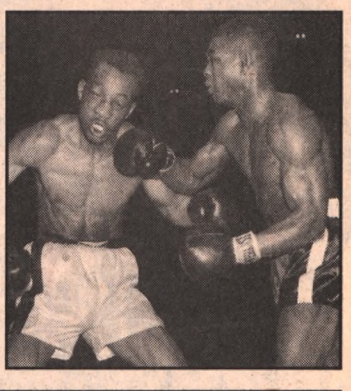
8

Triple-crown champion Mike McCallum won his first world title at the Garden. Against what junior middleweight did he illustrate why he is nicknamed "The Bodysnatcher"?



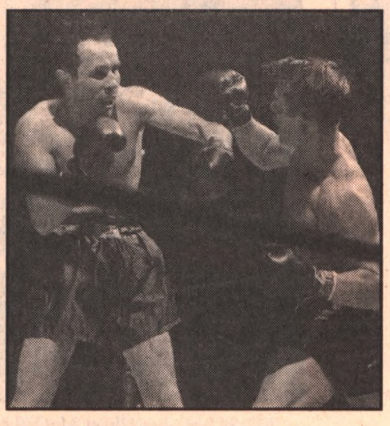
9

Sandy Saddler won the featherweight title at the Garden, and made one successful defense there. Name his opponent, who, judging by this photo, proved quite troublesome.



10

Tony Zale (right) won universal recognition as middleweight champion by rising from the canvas to outpoint this master boxer.



ANSWERS:

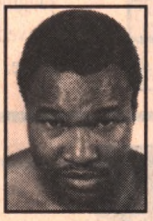
1) Orlando Romero
2) Federico Thompson
3) Fred Apostoli
4) Harold Johnson
5) Tony Licata
6) Pedro Montanez
7) Tiberio Mitri
8) Sean Mannion
9) Teddy "Red Top" Davis
10) Georgie Abrams

THE STATE OF THE GAME

George Foreman

Tony Tucker

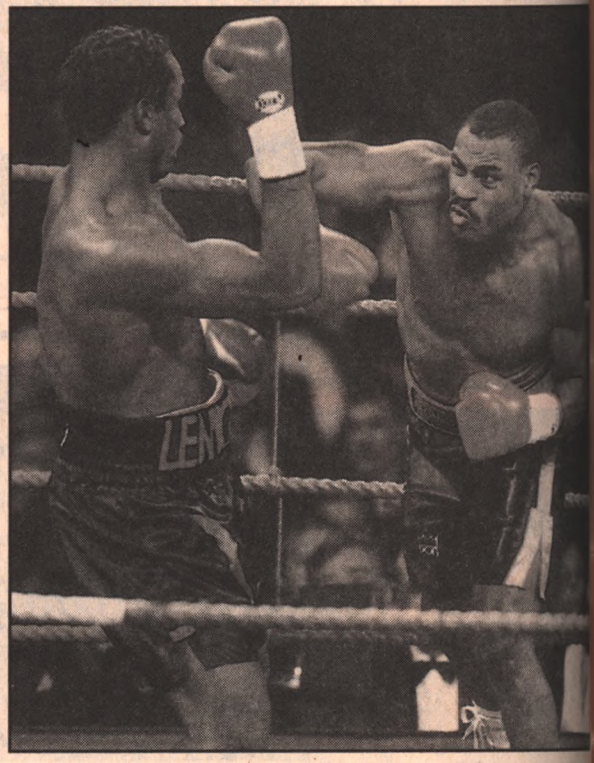
Riddick Bowe



Larry Holmes

By Steve Farhood

In 1994, boxing gave us The Big Tease. George Foreman reminded us what a heavyweight champion is supposed to be, but a few weeks after his unlikely kayo of Michael Moorer, it became apparent that, at age 46, he planned to all but freeze the title. Frankie Randall and Julio Cesar Chavez engaged in a pair of exciting and controversial fights, and Don King, protecting his Mexican meal ticket, made sure block what seemed a natural rub match. CBS returned to boxing suffered from poor ratings, clou ing the sport's immediate future weekend TV. HBO made a comm ment to highlight the little gian then saw a pair of featured playe Orlando Canizales and Ke



Oliver McCall crushes Lennox Lewis

Kelley, lose in the first week of '95. And in the year's most scintillating performance, Roy Jones dominated pound-for-pound claimant James Toney to such an extent that no other 168-pounder seemed capable of giving him a fight.

No more tease; in 1995, Mike Tyson will return to his role as The Big Cheese. The heavyweights will sizzle, which will ultimately benefit all fighters. And in 1996, the state of the game will be better than it's been in years.

HEAVYWEIGHTS

It's easy to understand why everyone's so excited about the upcoming return of "Iron Mike." Michael Moorer turned out to be a one-hit wonder. One hit was all it took to eliminate Lennox Lewis. Riddick Bowe lacks desire and/or opportunity. Evander Holyfield seems older than those on the Seniors Tour. Razor Ruddock is still missing, Michael Bentt is already gone, and Tommy Morrison was never here. Given the mercurial nature of the division, Axel Schulz and Larry Holmes will probably be world champions before long.

This is what's supposed to happen: WBA-IBF champion Foreman will defend against Germany's Schulz. ("Is it safe? Is it safe?" You can bet your Midas Muffler it's safe.) WBC titlist Oliver McCall will defend against grandfather Holmes, while Lewis will clash with Lionel Butler in an eliminator. As we went to press, Bowe was scheduled to face undefeated Herbie Hide. Even if he wins, "Big Daddy" seems the odd man out. Moorer and Holyfield will continue to fight middle-level opposition on HBO, and Tyson will engage in a few bouts before challenging for the WBC crown. Sound's like a yearfull, doesn't it?

Think About It: Tony Tucker is ranked first by the WBA, WBC, and IBF—and not at all by THE RING. Since losing on points to then-WBC champion Lennox Lewis in May 1993, Tucker has defeated David Graves (5-7-6), Tim Morrison (14-25-2), George Stephens, Cecil Coffee, and Dan Murphy. After his one-sided loss to Lewis, the WBC dropped "TNT" from number one all the way down to number two. Over the past five years, he's beaten only two ranked fighters, Orlin Norris and McCall.

HEAVYWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Riddick Bowe

Best Boxer
Larry Holmes

Most Protected
Peter McNeeley

Is He *Still* Around?
Mike Weaver

Matchmaker's Dream
George Foreman-Mike Tyson

Best-Kept Secret
Courage Tshabalala

Deserves A Title Shot
Riddick Bowe

Most Fun To Watch
Lionel Butler

On The Way Down
Ray Mercer

Underrated
Alexandre Zolkin

Best Fight In 1994
George Foreman KO 10 Michael Moorer

Sergei Kobozev surprises Robert Daniels

CRUISERWEIGHTS

In this division of heavyweight wannabes, it's always something. IBF champion Al Cole is walking around at about 215 pounds and talking of fighting the big guys. Aging WBC titlist

CRUISERWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Orlin Norris

Best Boxer
Orlin Norris

Most Protected
Marc Randazzo

Is He *Still* Around?
Dennis Andries

Matchmaker's Dream
Orlin Norris-Al Cole

Best-Kept Secret
Torsten May

Deserves A Title Shot
Adolpho Washington

Most Fun To Watch
David Izeqwire

On The Way Down
Vincent Boulware

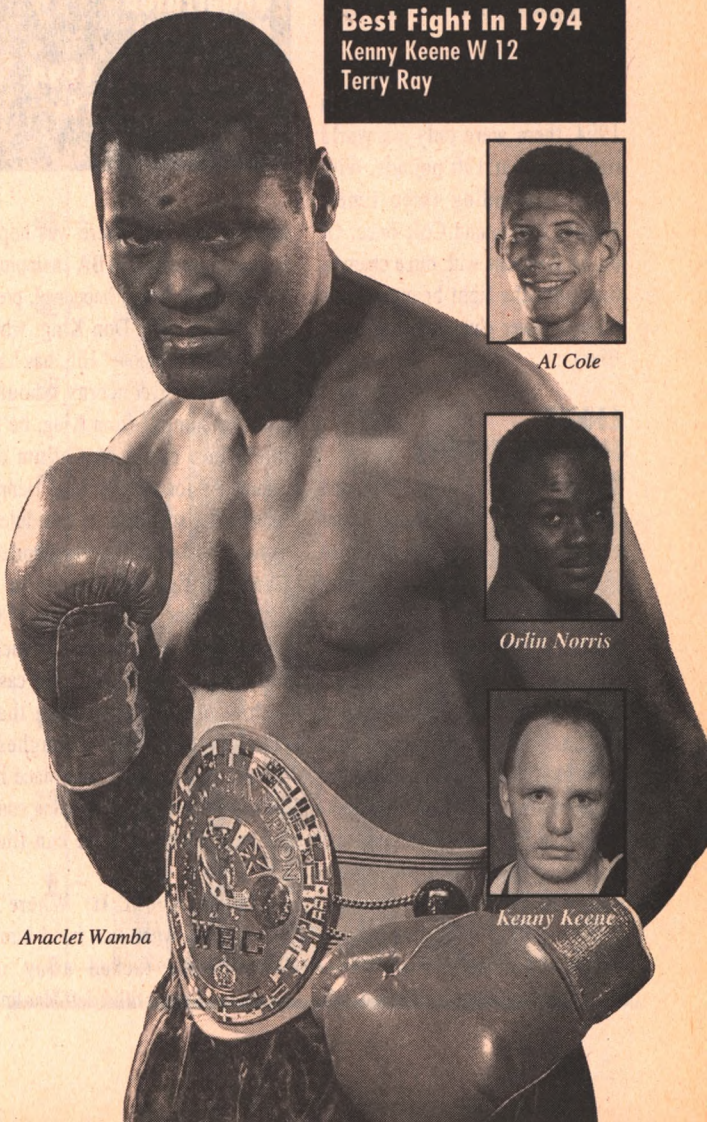
Underrated
Adolpho Washington

Best Fight In 1994
Kenny Keene W 12 Terry Ray

Al Cole

Orlin Norris

Kenny Keene



Anaclet Wamba

Anaclet Wamba has begun to rely on the generosity of the judges. And WBA king and division leader Orlin Norris still has nobody to fight. At least we're no longer waiting for Bobby Czyz and Thomas Hearns to duke it out.

At 190 pounds, looking for new stars could leave you blind. David Izeqwire was a candidate after upsetting Czyz, but then he got trounced by the underrated Adolpho Washington. Marcelo Dominguez fought well against Wamba, but was denied by the judges. And Arthur Williams proved clueless in his rematch with Norris. That leaves it up to a trio of undefeated contenders, Kenny Keene, Brooklyn-based Russian Sergei Kobozev, and Germany's Dariusz Michalczewski, to create some excitement. All three are willing, but they lack the class.

Don't look for a lot of drama in '95, unless another Dennis Andries title fight is your idea of excitement.

Think About It: And we thought Czyz froze the title! In 1994, there were only six world title fights at 190 pounds, with Norris defending three times, Wamba twice, and Cole once. Of the 15 divisions with three champions, only the light heavyweights offered fewer championship bouts (five).

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

How badly does the 175-pound class need two-division former titlist James Toney? Even more than Toney needed Gatorade after weighing in for his bout with Roy Jones. As we went to press, Toney was scheduled to face top-10 contender and 1992 Olympian Montell Griffin. Assuming he's successful, he'll likely engage in a title fight before the summer. Only one problem: Prince Charles Williams and WBC champion Mike McCallum, two of the division's most talented and marketable fighters, have already lost to Toney.

After McCallum dethroned Jeff Harding last year, there was hope he'd duel perennial WBA champion Virgil Hill. It hasn't happened, presumably because Don King, who has recently promoted Hill, has had more pressing concerns. Should Hill free himself from King, he'll likely face either McCallum or Toney. As for the IBF king Henry Maske, the southpaw is scheduled to face hard-punching but limited Canadian Egerton Marcus in a rematch of the 1988 Olympic 178-pound gold medal match, which was won by Maske. As is the case with all of Maske's fights, that matchup, the titlist's toughest defense to date, will take place in his native Germany. Promising contenders? Damned if we can find any.

Think About It: Where's James Scott when you need him? With Maske tucked away in Germany, former titlist Jeff Harding all but invisible, and Hill and McCallum relatively inactive, it's easy to forget the light heavyweight division still exists. Of the almost 200 bouts televised in 1994 (on basic cable-TV, main events only), a mere six were 175-pound bouts. With the invasion of Toney, that's likely to change in '95.

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Egerton Marcus

Best Boxer
Mike McCallum

Most Protected
Mickey Rourke

Is He *Still* Around?
Eric Nicoletta

Matchmaker's Dream
James Toney-Virgil Hill

Best-Kept Secret
Ginger Tshabalala

Deserves A Title Shot
Dariusz Michalczewski

Most Fun To Watch
Prince Charles Williams

On The Way Down
Ernest Mateen

Underrated
Montell Griffin

Best Fight In 1994
Leeonzer Barber KO 9 Nicky Piper

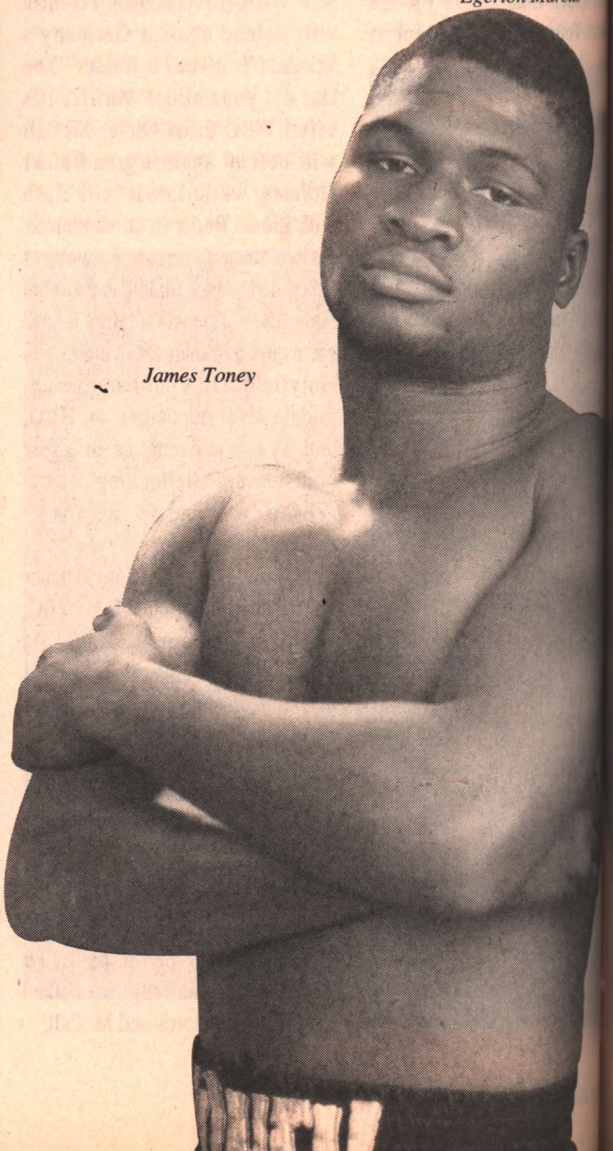
SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS

What a difference a year makes. IBF champion Roy Jones has replaced James Toney, who's jumped to light heavyweight. WBA champion Frank Liles has replaced Steve Little, who replaced Michael Nunn. WBC king Nigel Benn is still around, but given that he's planning a defense against bonebreaking former WBC middleweight champion Gerald McClellan, he may soon be replaced, too.

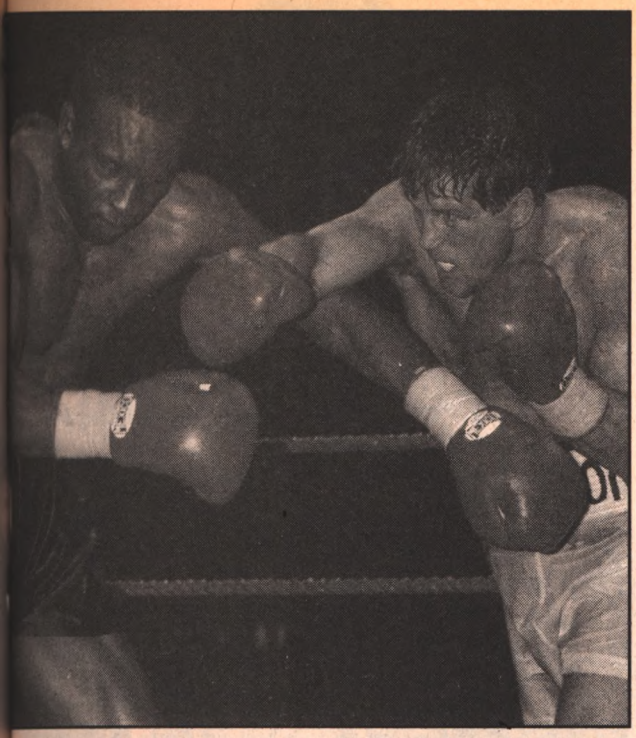
Prince Charles Williams

Virgil Hill

Egerton Marcus



James Toney



Nigel Benn makes war with Henry Wharton

Oddly enough, the division's one constant is enigmatic Englishman Chris Eubank, who reestablished himself with a sterling performance vs. Henry Wharton. Eubank-Jones would be a show, though not necessarily much of a fight. The same could be said for Vinny Pazienza-Jones, which is likely to materialize this spring on HBO. Jones, one of boxing's two best fighters, needs competition. As good as this division is, he may not be able to find any.

Lots of good European talent here, including Frederic Seillier and former world champion Graciano Rocchigiani. Of the young contenders, Tim Littles stands out, but he's all but disappeared following his March 1994 title fight loss to Toney. Nonetheless, this is as deep a division as there is.

Think About It: How strong would the middleweight division be had the alphabet boys never introduced a super middleweight class? Most of the top 168-pounders were once world-ranked middleweights, including Jones, McClellan, Benn, Eubank, and Nunn. Hell, Pazienza used to be a *lightweight*!

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Roy Jones

Best Boxer
Roy Jones

Most Protected
Cornelius Carr

Is He *Still* Around?
Juan Carlos Gimenez

Matchmaker's Dream
Roy Jones-Gerald McClellan

Best-Kept Secret
Ken Bowman

Deserves A Title Shot
Frederic Seillier

Most Fun To Watch
Vinny Pazienza

On The Way Down
Tony Thornton

Underrated
Graciano Rocchigiani

Best Fight In 1994
James Toney KO 4 Tim Littles

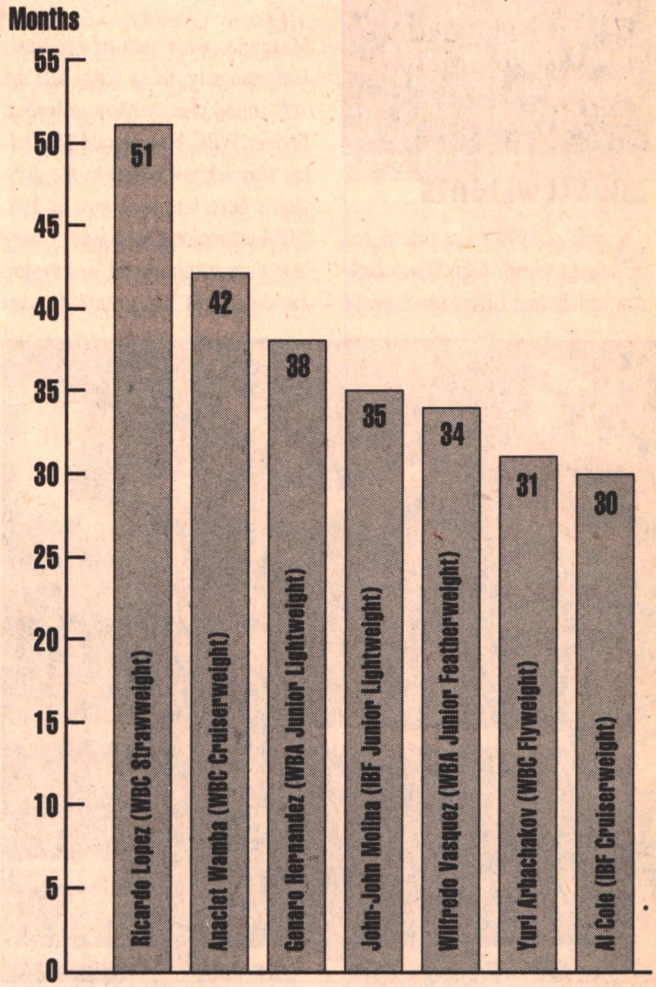
Frank Liles

Tim Littles

Roy Jones

LONGEST-REIGNING CHAMPIONS

The following shows boxing's most established champions and the number of months of their uninterrupted title reigns. All the names are new to this list; missing from last year are Azumah Nelson, Orlando Canizales, Julio Cesar Chavez, Gianfranco Rosi, Sung Kil Moon, Terry Norris, and Michael Carbajal.



MIDDLEWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Jorge Castro

Best Boxer
John David Jackson

Most Protected
Lonnie Bradley

Is He *Still* Around?
Alex Ramos

Matchmaker's Dream
Jorge Castro-John David Jackson

Best-Kept Secret
Joseph Kiwanuka

Deserves A Title Shot
Quincy Taylor

Most Fun To Watch
Charles Brewer

On The Way Down
Lupe Aquino

Underrated
Agostino Cardamone

Best Fight In 1994
Jorge Castro KO 9
John David Jackson

Bernard Hopkins

Terry Norris

Lonnie Bradley

Raul Marquez

Segundo Mercado

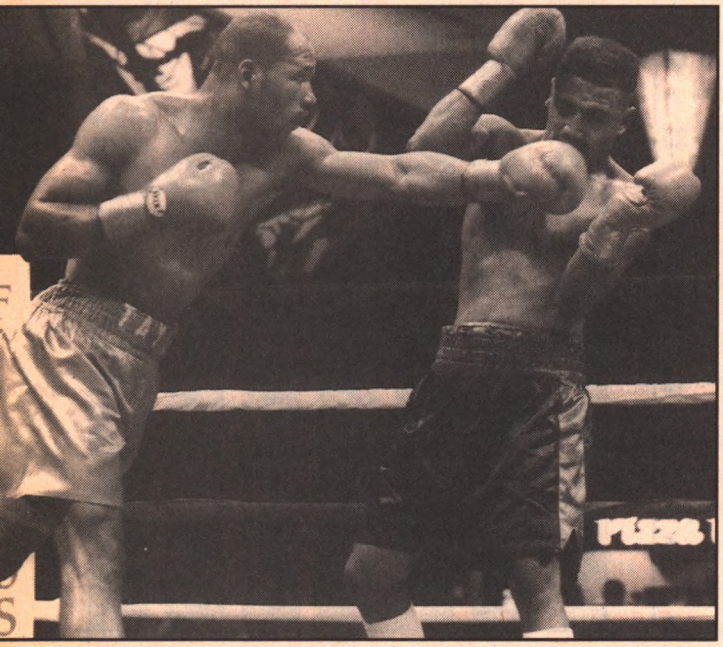
Buddy McGirt

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

A pair of 1994's last title fights, Jorge Castro-John David Jackson and Bernard Hopkins-Segundo Mercado, were two of the best. Unfortunately, those bouts left the 160-pound class without a leader. Former WBC king Gerald McClellan was acknowledged as the division's best, but he is now at 168. WBA champion Castro was nothing less than inspirational in kayoing Jackson, but his greatest asset remains his political connections. Hopkins and Ecuador's Mercado battled to a draw in an effort to fill the vacant IBF throne, so they'll have to do it again. There's not a Marvin Hagler living here. Not even a James Toney.

Someone has to emerge. Maybe it'll be Hopkins, who fought gallantly vs. Mercado despite difficult conditions in Ecuador. Or Quincy Taylor, who, after defeating a pair of unbeatens in Otis Grant and Rodney Toney, is most deserving of a title shot. Or heavy-handed southpaw Joe Lipsey or slick Lonnie Bradley or Europe's best, Agostino Cardamone, who will fight Julian Jackson for the vacant WBC title. Maybe Terry Norris will finally move up, though his chin isn't likely to hold up. Or maybe nothing will change for at least another year.

Think About It: No division can claim as many recent explosive kayos. McClellan had made three defenses—all first-round kayos. Behind on points with less than one round remaining, Taylor knocked out Grant with one punch. Roy Jones destroyed Thomas Tate with a second-round left hook that summoned memories of Sugar Ray Leonard-Davey Boy Green. Castro's desperation kayo of Jackson was the perfect punctuation mark for the year gone by. And where did Lonny Beasley find the first-round punch that crushed Charles Brewer?



Quincy Taylor guns for Derrick Rolon

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Terry Norris

Best Boxer
Terry Norris

Most Protected
Raul Marquez

Is He *Still* Around?
Lloyd Honeyghan

Matchmaker's Dream
Terry Norris-Pernell Whitaker

Best-Kept Secret
Carl Daniels

Deserves A Title Shot
Julio Cesar Green

Most Fun To Watch
Verno Phillips

On The Way Down
Simon Brown

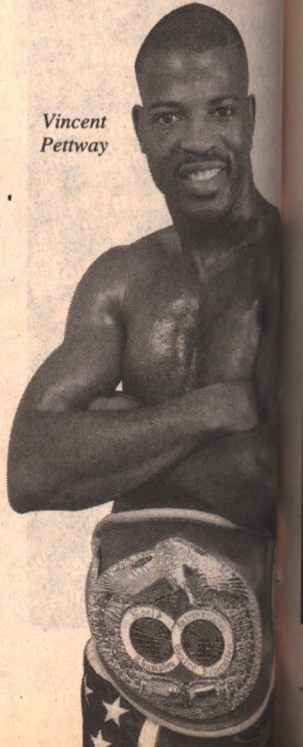
Underrated
Laurent Boudouani

Best Fight In 1994
Verno Phillips W 12
Santos Cardona

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS

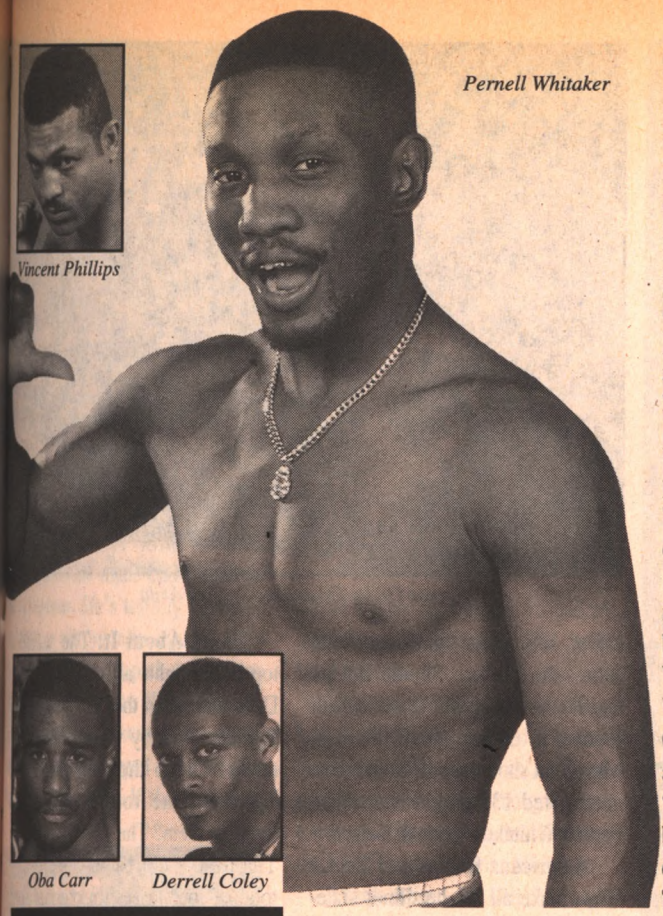
One year ago, we wrote, "hopefully, after [Terry] Norris departs, a fresh face will emerge." How were we to know that face would belong to battle-scarred Luis Santana, who dethroned WBC champion Norris in the weirdest title fight of 1994? Norris will likely regain the title in the rematch planned for April or May. But as talented as he remains, he's far too fragile to be regarded as a long-term proposition.

As we went to press, WBC welterweight champion Pernell Whitaker was scheduled to challenge Argentine WBA titlist Julio Cesar Vasquez. That's the good news. The bad: After he outslicks his fellow southpaw, "Sweet Pea" will drop back down to 147, leaving the



Vincent Pettway

Vincent Phillips



Pernell Whitaker

Oba Carr

Derrell Coley

WELTERWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Felix Trinidad

Best Boxer
Pernell Whitaker

Most Protected
Freddie Ladd

Is He *Still* Around?
Lonnie Smith

Matchmaker's Dream
Pernell Whitaker-Felix Trinidad

Best-Kept Secret
Andrew Murray

Deserves A Title Shot
Vincent Phillips

Most Fun To Watch
James Hughes

On The Way Down
Kevin Pompey

Underrated
Ike Quartey

Best Fight In 1994
Felix Trinidad KO 4
Yori Boy Campas

title vacant. Betcha Vasquez quickly regains it. The IBF champion, Vincent Pettway, is a poor man's Norris, a puncher with a chocolate pudding chin. Look for him to defend vs. a ringworn Simon Brown.

Until some new talent emerges, you'll have to settle for the trials and tribulations of "Terrible Terry," and maybe the last gasp of Buddy McGirt. Raul Marquez can punch, but he's headed for 160. Bronco McKart lacks fire, and Julio Cesar Green lacks class. Whatever happened to Carl Daniels, anyway?

Think About It: As much as we despise the proliferation of world titles, we have to acknowledge that the various alphabet organizations are often responsible for matchups that would otherwise fail to materialize. Case in point: WBO champion Verno Phillips, whose rumbles with Jaime Llanes and Santos Cardona were among the best 154-pound fights of 1994. Would Phillips have encountered Llanes and Cardona had he not been defending the WBO belt? We think not.

WELTERWEIGHTS

A fantastic division, though not as strong as it was in the late-'70s and early-'80s, when Leonard, Hearns, Duran, Palomino, Benitez, and Cuevas were headlining. Boxing's finest fighter, WBC champion Pernell Whitaker, resides here, and after he challenges 154-pound king Julio Cesar Vasquez, he'll return to 147 and engage WBA champion Ike Quartey in a unification match. It's unwise to pick against Sweet Pea, but "Bazooka" Quartey is particularly explosive.

In the pound-for-pound rankings, IBF champion Felix Trinidad belongs only a few spots below Whitaker. In 1994, Trinidad kayoed Yori Boy Campas (56-0) and Oba Carr (32-0). And as if to prove he's as exciting as he is dangerous, "Tito" rose from the canvas in both battles. At age 22, and with a showdown vs. Whitaker unlikely, Trinidad figures to soon jump to junior middleweight. He'll win a world title there, too.

There's plenty of talent here. Campas (23) and Carr (22) are young enough to rebound, and Derrell Coley, Ray Lovato, Freddie Ladd, Vince Phillips, and Andrew Murray are ready to make their moves. Also, look out for European champion Jose Luis Navarro, 18-0 (18), of Spain.

Think About It: Every time promoters Don King and Dan Duva scream for Whitaker-Trinidad, then fail to make the match, we think back to the golden age of the 147-pound class. Consider this: When Leonard, Hearns, Duran, Benitez, and Cuevas were all within a few pounds of each other, there were 10 potential matchups. Eight were realized, with only Leonard-Cuevas and Benitez-Cuevas missing.

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS

As we went to press, IBF champion Jake Rodriguez was scheduled to defend against Australia-based Russian Kostya Tszyu (pronounced zoo). If the unbeaten Tszyu is not only victorious but impressive—and we think he'll be both—you might not be as concerned with a third Julio Cesar Chavez-Frankie Randall bout as you were in '94. Nonetheless, Chavez (WBC) and Randall (WBA) are co-champions, and despite what Don King may think, a rubber match is in order. Instead, the titlists, neither of whom has time on his side (Chavez is 32, Randall 33), will feast on hand-picked challengers such as Giovanni Parisi and Hector Lopez. But keep an eye out for California's powerpunching David Kamau. Rated first by the

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Kostya Tszyu

Best Boxer
Frankie Randall

Most Protected
Lewis Veader

Is He *Still* Around?
Jose Caba

Matchmaker's Dream
Kostya Tszyu-Oscar De La Hoya

Best-Kept Secret
Jan Bergman

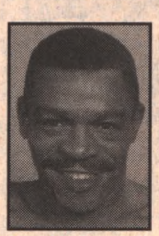
Deserves A Title Shot
David Kamau

Most Fun To Watch
Ray Oliveira

On The Way Down
Rodney Moore

Underrated
Giovanni Parisi

Best Fight In 1994
Frankie Randall W 12
Julio Cesar Chavez



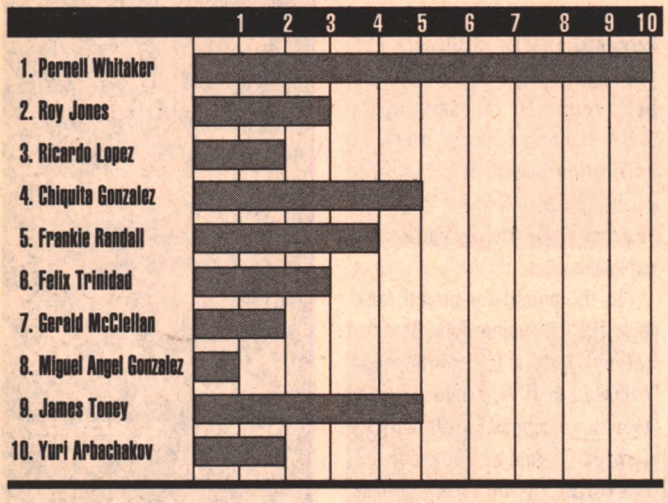
Frankie Randall

Juan Coggi

CHAMPS vs. CHAMPS

One way to determine the quality of a fighter's opposition is to count the number of world champions he's defeated. We considered the 10 fighters listed in THE RING's pound-for-pound ratings. The totals:

Number of champs defeated



WBC, he's Chavez' mandatory challenger.

This is no longer the best division in boxing. Many of the contenders are aging veterans (Juan Coggi, Tony Lopez, Darryll Tyson), and in 1994, the ranks were further thinned by the unexpected collapse of Charles Murray and the career-threatening head injury suffered by Zack Padilla. Assuming he unseats the stubborn Rodriguez, the future is Tszyu—and Oscar De La Hoya and Miguel Angel Gonzalez, whenever they arrive from lightweight.

Think About It: Over an 8½-month stretch in 1994, Randall won a world title by beating a champion who was 89-0-1, lost it by controversial decision, and won another by dethroning one of the most established titlists in the game in Coggi. Yet, when it was time to consider Fighter of the Year, "The Surgeon" was virtually forgotten, finishing a distant third to Roy Jones and George Foreman.

LIGHTWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Oscar De La Hoya

Best Boxer
Shane Mosley

Most Protected
Fabian Tejeda

Is He *Still* Around?
Lupe Pintor

Matchmaker's Dream
Oscar De La Hoya-Rafael Ruelas

Best-Kept Secret
Miguel Julio

Deserves A Title Shot
John-John Molina

Most Fun To Watch
Miguel Angel Gonzalez

On The Way Down
Dingaan Thobela

Underrated
Nazarov Olzubek

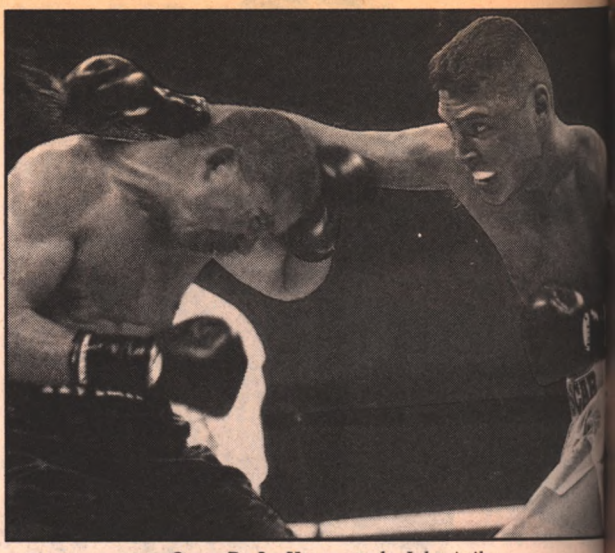
Best Fight In 1994
Rafael Ruelas W 12
Freddie Pendleton

LIGHTWEIGHTS

Tough to handicap because as we went to press, IBF champion Rafael Ruelas was scheduled to defend against England's Billy Schwer, and Oscar De La Hoya was set to risk his unbeaten record against the toughest opponent of his career, IBF junior lightweight king John-John Molina. Should Ruelas and De La Hoya win (they're both favored to do so), they'll clash in May. That shootout will be the most anticipated 135-pound bout since Pernell Whitaker-Azumah Nelson.

Americans Ruelas and De La Hoya make all the headlines stateside, but Mexican WBC champion Miguel Angel Gonzalez and Japan-based Russian WBA king Nazarov Olzubek may be the best fighters at this weight. Gonzalez, who is just about ready to jump to 140, needs better competition. Southpaw Olzubek, who dethroned Dingaan Thobela in South Africa and recently crushed Joey Gamache in Portland, Maine, needs a better publicist.

De La Hoya, Ruelas, and Gonzalez are likely to soon move up in weight. If they do, slick Colombian Miguel Julio and speedy Californian Shane Mosley will be ready to step up. Two others to watch: Philadelphia's Ivan Robinson and Atlantic City puncher Leavander Johnson.



Oscar De La Hoya attacks John Avila

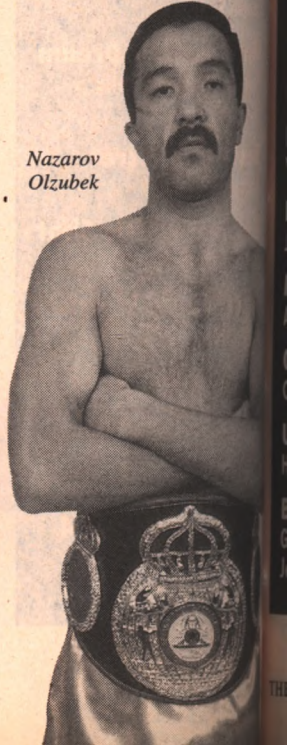
Think About It: The world's top lightweights almost never lose. Does that mean they're exceptional fighters, even by world-class standards? Or do they simply never fight anyone tough enough to threaten them? The 135-pounders of THE RING's top 10 have suffered a total of four losses. In comparison, the other divisions' top-10 fighters average a total of more than 3 losses.

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS

Not as strong as the division immediately above or below, the 130-pounders have lost Oscar De La Hoya and IBF champion

Shane Mosley

Miguel Angel Gonzalez



Nazarov Olzubek

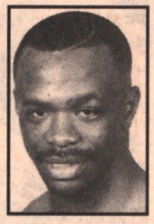
John-John Molina to the lightweights, and longtime champion Azumah Nelson to Father Time. Assuming the IBF doesn't allow Molina to face De La Hoya and, should he lose, drop back down and continue his reign, unbeaten but untested Ed Hopson and Colombia's Moises Pedroza will clash for the vacant title. Powerpuncher Arturo Gatti will presumably move into the position of mandatory challenger.

Even with the recent defections, there are two solid world champions here. WBA king Genaro Hernandez has made eight successful defenses. He's terribly underrated, but a chronically injured right hand may block his path to stardom. As we went to press, WBC champion Gabriel Ruelas was scheduled to defend against rugged New Yorker Freddie Liberatore. If the defending titlist fights as well as he did in dethroning Jesse James Leija, he'll keep the belt.

Genaro Hernandez

Tom Johnson

Jesse James Leija



Tracy Patterson

The best of the non-champions, Leija, will likely rebound. Hopson and Gatti aside, there aren't a lot of promising youngsters, though we're touting California's Carlos Hernandez and Florida's Lamar Murphy.

Think About It: Leija's recent four-month reign aside, the junior lightweight title has been the most stable in boxing. Julio Cesar Chavez kept the WBC title for three years, and Nelson, his successor, held it for six. Over the past 8½ years, there have been only three WBA champions (Brian Mitchell, Joey Gamache, and Hernandez). And IBF king Molina has reigned for the past three years. Of today's champions, Hernandez and Molina rank third and fourth, respectively, among the longest-reigning titlists.

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Arturo Gatti

Best Boxer
Gabe Ruelas

Most Protected
Ed Hopson

Is He *Still* Around?
Kelvin Seabrooks

Matchmaker's Dream
Gabe Ruelas-Genaro Hernandez

Best-Kept Secret
Victor Hugo Paz

Deserves A Title Shot
Jesse James Leija

Most Fun To Watch
Arturo Gatti

On The Way Down
Calvin Grove

Underrated
Harold Warren

Best Fight In 1994
Gabe Ruelas W 12
Jesse James Leija

FEATHERWEIGHTS

Alejandro Gonzalez' upset victory over defending WBC champion Kevin Kelley surely changed the face of the division. Allow us to be more specific: The fight changed the *mouth* of the division, a role for which Kelley was perfectly suited. HBO, which had been heavily hyping Kelley, insists it will stand by its little man. Maybe we'll see the thrill-a-minute southpaw challenge IBF titlist Tom Johnson later this year.

FEATHERWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Eloy Rojas

Best Boxer
Kevin Kelley

Most Protected
Ever Beleno

Is He *Still* Around?
Jerome Coffee

Matchmaker's Dream
Tom Johnson-Kevin Kelley

Best-Kept Secret
Chico Castillo

Deserves A Title Shot
Tony Green

Most Fun To Watch
Tom Johnson

On The Way Down
Duke McKenzie

Underrated
Steve Robinson

Best Fight In 1994
Tony Green W 10
Rudy Zavala

At age 21, Gonzalez leads a trio of worthy champions. Is the Mexican as good as he looked vs. Kelley? That's a question only a couple of defenses will answer. Conversely, the all-action Johnson has already established himself, as has the division's premier puncher, WBA champion Eloy Rojas. In December, Venezuela's Rojas defended against Colombian former world champion Luis Mendoza in Bogota. For that miraculous feat alone, he deserves consideration as the world's best featherweight.

The champions are backed by late-bloomer Steve Robinson, former 122-pound titlist Tracy Patterson, and powerpunchers Ever Beleno and Orlando Soto. Watch out for Puerto Rico's Jose Badillo and California's Chico Castillo, too.

Think About It: Robinson may not be the best fighter in the division, but he has the best story. In April 1993, the Welshman, who was once 9-8-1, was laboring in a Cardiff department store in an effort to support his common-law wife

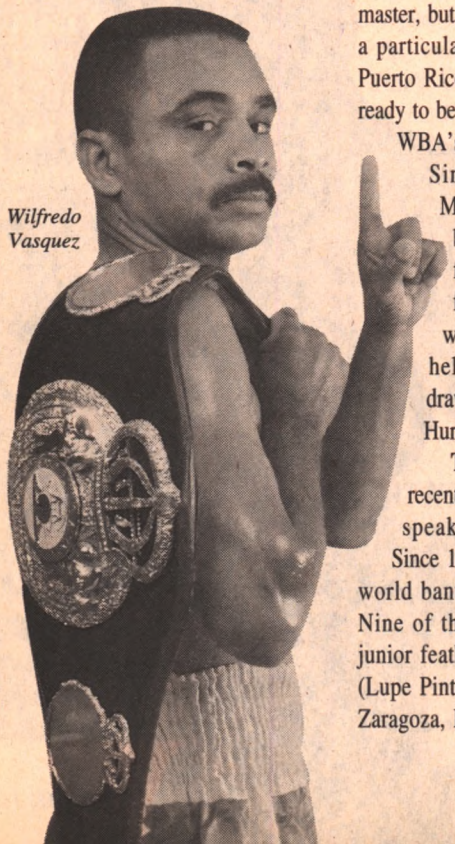
Gabe Ruelas

and young son. He was summoned as a replacement for WBO champion Ruben Palacio, who had tested HIV-positive, and despite taking the bout on two days notice, won the lightly regarded title by outpointing John Davison. He's since made five successful defenses and regularly commands six-figure purses.

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

If, one year ago, we mentioned Vuyani Bungu, you might've thought we were referring to a character from *Star Trek: Voyager*. Back then, Kennedy McKinney, Welcome Ncita, Tracy Patterson, and Wilfredo Vasquez were the 122-pounders of note. Vasquez has remained WBA champion, surviving the challenge of Orlando Canizales in January. His co-stars, however, have changed. South Africa's persistent Bungu unseated McKinney in 1994's Upset of the Year, and New York-based Dominican Hector Acero-Sanchez surprised defending WBC champion Patterson.

While Bungu's first defense was a relatively easy points victory over Felix Camacho, Acero-Sanchez is preparing for mandatory challenger and former world champion Julio Gervacio. The titlist is a defensive master, but that will nonetheless be a particularly tough task. As for Puerto Rico's Vasquez, at 33 he's ready to be taken. In his favor: The WBA's top 10 is painfully thin.



Wilfredo Vasquez

Since losing to Bungu, McKinney's been invisible. The most intriguing fresh faces are California's Eddie Croft, who in December 1993 held Acero-Sanchez to a draw, Colombia's Reynaldo Hurtado, and Maui Diaz.

Think About It: His recent loss to Vasquez doesn't speak well for Canizales. Since 1976, there have been 35 world bantamweight champions. Nine of them have tried for the junior featherweight title, and six (Lupe Pintor, Jeff Fenech, Daniel Zaragoza, Bernardo Pinango, Raul Perez, and Vasquez) have been successful. The only three to fail were a comebacking Carlos Zarate, Jorge Lujan, and Canizales. Note: Greg Richardson fought for the 122-pound crown *before* reigning at bantamweight.

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Wilfredo Vasquez

Best Boxer
Hector Acero-Sanchez

Most Protected
Reynaldo Hurtado

Is He *Still* Around?
Daniel Zaragoza

Matchmaker's Dream
Orlando Canizales-Marco Antonio Barrera

Best-Kept Secret
Jose Badillo

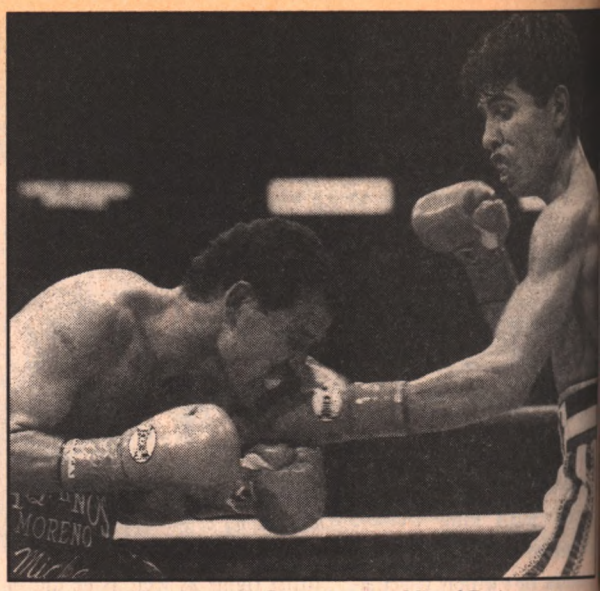
Deserves A Title Shot
Eddie Croft

Most Fun To Watch
Welcome Ncita

On The Way Down
Thierry Jacob

Underrated
Frankie Toledo

Best Fight In 1994
Hector Acero-Sanchez W 12
Tracy Patterson



Marco Antonio Barrera spears Miguel Espinoza

BANTAMWEIGHTS

As soon as Orlando Canizales stepped through the ropes for his unsuccessful challenge of WBA junior featherweight champion Wilfredo Vasquez, the IBF title became vacant. Canizales had reigned longer than any current champion (seven years) and made a division-record 16 consecutive successful defenses. The title remained unclaimed for only two weeks; on January 21, Colombia's Juvena Berrio, already a points loser to Canizales in '93, lost the vacant belt to countryman Harold Mestre by eighth-round kayo. No big deal.

The WBA champion, Thai veteran Daorung MP Petroleum, is

Orlando Canizales

Wayne McCullough

Welcome Ncita

Al Kotey

BANTAMWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Yasuei Yakushiji

Best Boxer
Naseem Hamed

Most Protected
Harold Mestre

Is He *Still* Around?
Greg Richardson

Matchmaker's Dream
Wayne McCullough-Naseem Hamed

Best-Kept Secret
Mbuelo Botile

Deserves A Title Shot
Sergio Reyes

Most Fun To Watch
Joichiro Tatsuyoshi

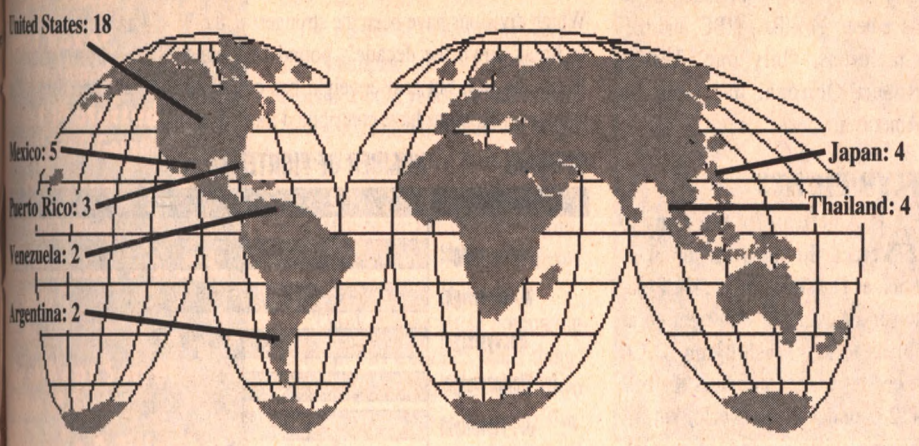
On The Way Down
Victor Rabanales

Underrated
Al Kotey

Best Fight In 1994
Yasuei Yakushiji W 12
Joichiro Tatsuyoshi

THE CHAMPS BY COUNTRIES

As usual, the USA leads all nations in the championship roll call. (Champions as of January 20, 1995.)



Eight countries tied with 1:

- France
- Germany
- England
- Ghana
- Dominican Republic
- South Africa
- South Korea
- Colombia

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Danny Romero

Best Boxer
Hiroshi Kawashima

Most Protected
Gerry Penalosa

Is He *Still* Around?
Rolando Pascua

Matchmaker's Dream
Danny Romero-Johnny Tapia

Best-Kept Secret
In Joo Cho

Deserves A Title Shot
Danny Romero

Most Fun To Watch
Johnny Tapia

On The Way Down
Ernie Cataluna

Underrated
Alimi Goitia

Best Fight In 1994
Johnny Tapia KO 11 Henry Martinez

much better than Mestre. Look for him to defend only at home. The best fighter here, at least until Danny Romero moves up from 115 or Mexico's Marco Antonio Barrera moves up in class, is Japanese WBC king Yasuei Yakushiji. A tall, one-two puncher, he proved his mettle in surviving the challenge of Joichiro Tatsuyoshi.

Romero and Barrera aside, the future belongs to ever-improving Irish crowd-pleaser Wayne McCullough, outrageous and masterful England-based Yemenite "Prince" Naseem Hamed, and 1992 Olympian Sergio Reyes, who was robbed in a 1994 title try vs. Canizales. All three, however, will soon rise to 122.

Think About It: Whatever happened to Mexico's domination of the 118-pound class? The reigning world champions are Colombian, Thai, and Japanese. The top contenders are from Ireland, Yemen, and the USA. Victor Rabanales has faded, and there are precious-few youngsters on the rise. That leaves it up to Barrera, who's 34-0 (24) and ready for the best. But will he outgrow the division?

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS

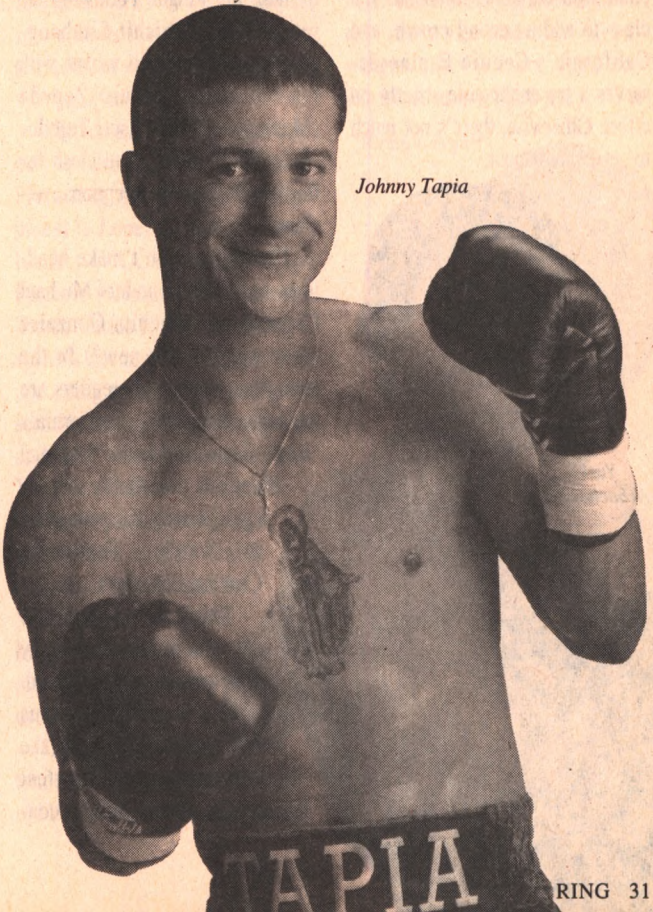
If you're familiar with 115-pound world champions Harold Grey (IBF), Hiroshi Kawashima (WBC), and Hyung Chul Lee (WBA), consider yourself a 100 percent certified boxing nut. But a pair of vibrant American contenders, Johnny Tapia and Danny Romero, have universal appeal. Tapia and Romero both hail from Albuquerque, New Mexico, and a showdown is The Land of Enchantment's hottest topic of conversation. Unfortunately, the 20-year-old Romero is likely to jump to bantamweight before the bout is made.

None of the champions inspires confidence. Colombia's angular Grey was sharp in dethroning Julio Borboa but flat in more recently edging veteran Vincenzo Belcastro. Japan's Kawashima, a tall southpaw stylist, hasn't faced much world-class competition. And South Korea's Lee is a pure puncher who doesn't figure to reign for long.

The multidimensional Borboa is a good bet to regain a portion of the title. Venezuelan former flyweight

Hiroshi Kawashima

Danny Romero



Johnny Tapia

FLYWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Yuri Arbachakov

Best Boxer
Mark Johnson

Most Protected
Chokchai 3-K Battery

Is He *Still* Around?
Hiroki Ioka

Matchmaker's Dream
Yuri Arbachakov-San Sor Ploenchit

Best-Kept Secret
Alex Mahmutov

Deserves A Title Shot
Mark Johnson

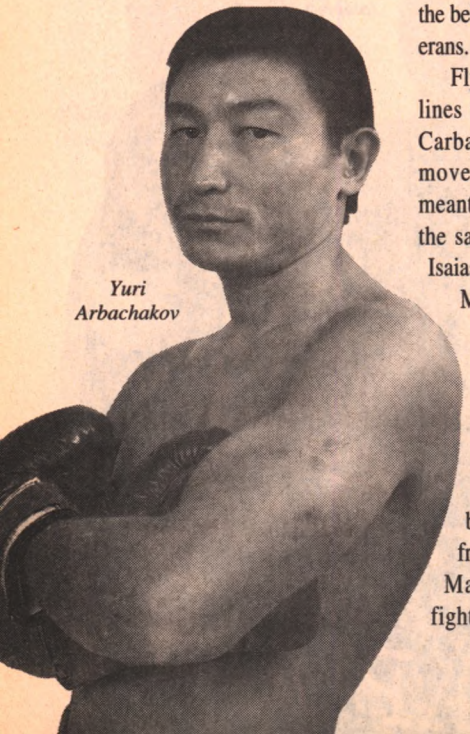
Most Fun To Watch
Yuri Arbachakov

On The Way Down
Luigi Camputaro

Underrated
Arthur Johnson

Best Fight In 1994
Yuri Arbachakov KO 8 Hugo Soto

champion David Griman has the class to add a second crown, and California's Cecilio Espino deserves a try at the title strictly on effort. Otherwise, there's not much to get excited about.



Yuri Arbachakov

Think About It: Something for Tapia and Romero to consider: How tough is it for an American to win the 115-pound title? In the 15-year history of the division, there have been 24 WBA, WBC, and IBF champions. Only one, Texas' Robert Quiroga, has been an American.

FLYWEIGHTS

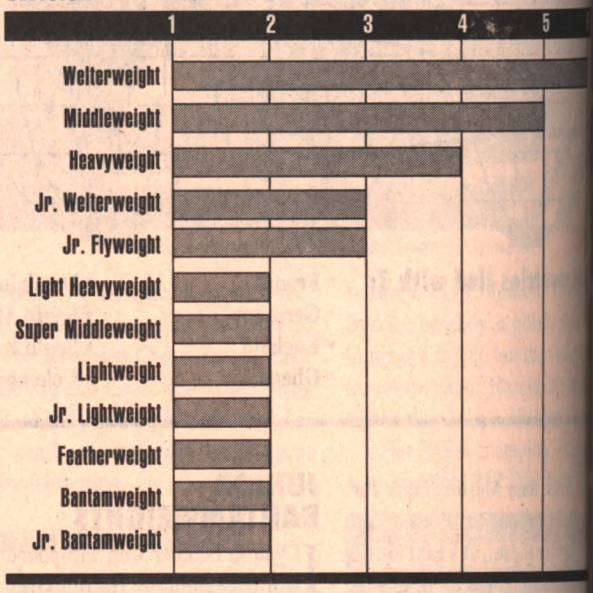
An American fly threatens to crack the big time about as often as Don King does a rival promoter a favor. We won't yet go as far as to say Washington, D.C., speedster Mark Johnson is the best 112-pounder in the world, but his boxing skills are indeed special. Should he opt to challenge the division's best puncher, Japan-based Russian and WBC champion Yuri Arbachakov, the mighty mites just might produce a classic. (Johnson is ranked second by the WBC.) WBA champion San Sor Ploenchit is the antithesis of Arbachakov; the Thai is virtually void of power. He compensates with speed and volume-punching and seems capable of reigning as long as he can continue to make the weight. Following the retirement of Phichit Sithbangprachan, the IBF title is vacant, with top-ranked Jose Luis Zepeda (Mexico) and Francisco Tejedor (Colombia) scheduled to clash for the belt. Both are unexceptional veterans.

Flyweights won't make headlines until 108-pounders Michael Carbajal and Chiquita Gonzalez move up. (What's new?) In the meantime, the top contenders are the same old names (California's Isaias Zamudio, Mexico's Miguel Martinez and Oscar Arciniega). Among the youngsters to watch: Thailand's Chatchai Elite-Gym.

Think About It: We're not done measuring every strawweight from Thailand, but that hasn't stopped us from unofficially naming Jake Matlala the world's shortest fighter. The South African contender stands 4'10". At 33, "Baby Jake" is also a study in persistence. Having turned pro in 1980, he's compiled an ordinary record of 41-9-1 (20), but remains world-class. (In 1993, he won the spurious WBO title.) We're not sure about Matlala's reach, but we're sure exceeds his grasp.

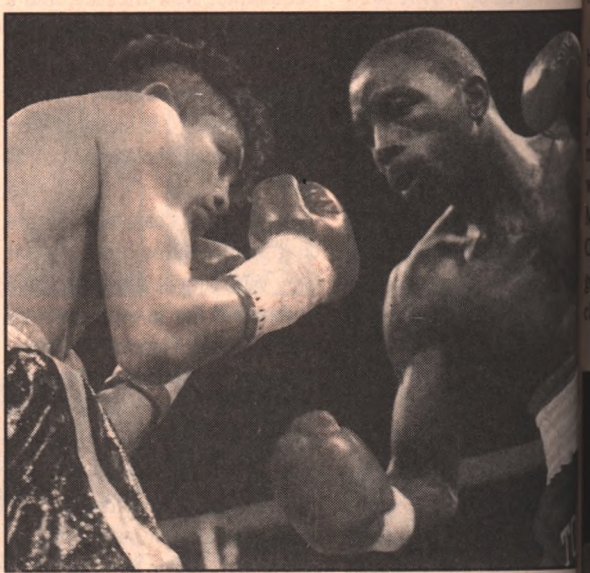
THE WORLD'S BEST, POUND-FOR-POUND

Which divisions have been the strongest in the '90s? One way to measure is to break down the decade's pound-for-pound entrants by weight class. Every division but cruiserweight has contributed at least one fighter. The following divisions have contributed more than one.



JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS

The Chiquita Gonzalez-Michael Carbajal rivalry has played itself out, and the only way the



Mark Johnson pummels Enrique Orozco

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Michael Carbajal

Best Boxer
Chiquita Gonzalez

Most Protected
Miguel Angel Gonzalez

Is He *Still* Around?
Hi Yong Choi

Matchmaker's Dream
Chiquita Gonzalez-Ricardo Lopez

Best-Kept Secret
Hadao CP Gym

Deserves A Title Shot
Jesus Chong

Most Fun To Watch
Eric Griffin

On The Way Down
Pretty Boy Lucas

Underrated
Carlos Murillo

Best Fight In 1994
Carlos Murillo KO 9
Eric Griffin

...nders will maintain momentum ...l be if strawweight champion ...rdo Lopez invades. Of the two ...ential marquee matchups, ...bajal-Lopez is more likely to be ...e, only because Don King pro... both fighters.

After winning the Carbajal rub... match, WBC-IBF champion ...zalez talked of retirement. A ... to flyweight is a likely alter... (You don't think he really ... to fight mandatory challenger ...or Cob Castro again, do you? ... of these days, Cob Castro is ... to get it right.) As for WBA ...pion and powerpunching Venezuelan Leo Gamez, a difficult defense looms vs. Carlos Murillo. The Panamanian proved himself by outlasting Eric Griffin in the division's best fight of 1994.

A master at overcoming adversity, southpaw and 1992 Olympian Griffin should rebound and remain in contention. However, he might want to alter his bombs-away approach. There aren't too many contenders to get excited about, though it's time Mexico's Jesus Chong secured a title try.

Think About It: In comparing Carbajal and Gonzalez, some things to consider: Carbajal has beaten two world champions and Gonzalez five. With the exception of the third Chiquita fight, Carbajal has never fought outside the USA, while Gonzalez has won three title fights in South Korea. Conversely, Carbajal has never been stopped, while Gonzalez has been halted twice.

...Murillo

Eric Griffin

STRAWWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Ricardo Lopez

Best Boxer
Ricardo Lopez

Most Protected
Jin Ho Kim

Is He *Still* Around?
Manny Melchor

Matchmaker's Dream
Ricardo Lopez-Ratanapol Sor Vorapin

Best-Kept Secret
Marcelino Bolivar

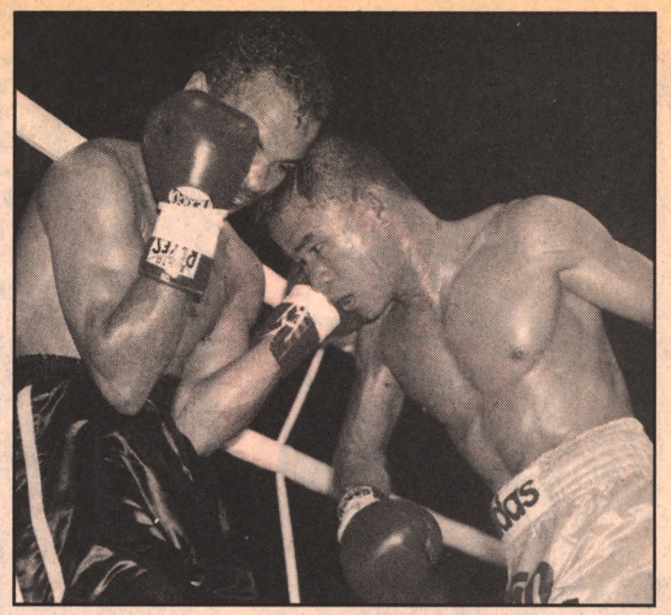
Deserves A Title Shot
Andy Tabanas

Most Fun To Watch
Ricardo Lopez

On The Way Down
Kusuo Eguchi

Underrated
Joma Gamboa

Best Fight In 1994
Ricardo Lopez KO 8
Javier Varguez



Chana Porpaoin hammers Rafael Torres

STRAWWEIGHTS

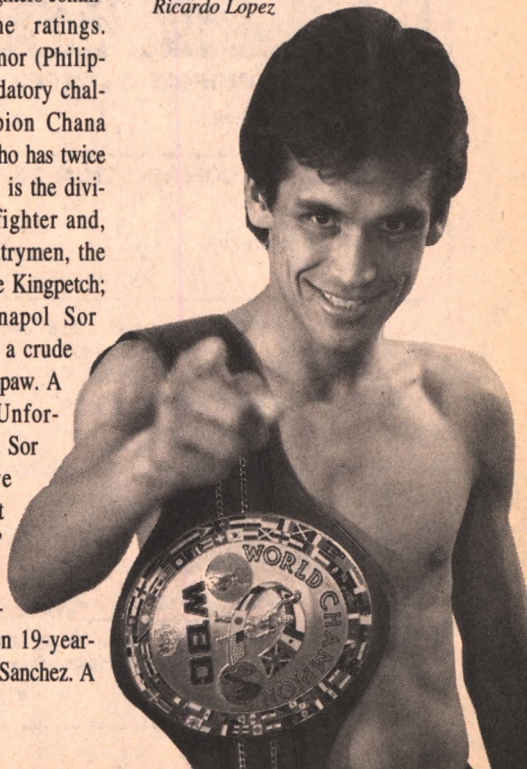
WBC champion Ricardo Lopez is great to watch, but 1994 confirmed what we've suspected for a number of years: There isn't anyone at 105 pounds who can give him a go. And while the supremely talented Mexican is inarguably the best fighter in the eight-year history of the division, isn't that sort of like being the best bobsledder in Jamaica? Here's to hoping Lopez, who's never lost as a pro or amateur, seeks some challenges by moving up to 108 pounds.

Filipino and Thai fighters continue to dominate the ratings. Promising Ala Villamor (Philippines) is Lopez' mandatory challenger; WBA champion Chana Porpaoin (Thailand), who has twice beaten Carlos Murillo, is the divisions's second-best fighter and, according to his countrymen, the second coming of Pone Kingpetch; and IBF king Ratanapol Sor Vorapin (Thailand) is a crude but heavy-handed southpaw. A unification battle? Unfortunately, Porpaoin and Sor Vorapin don't leave home, and as a result aren't listed on Lopez' dance card.

The hottest contender here is unbeaten 19-year-old Puerto Rican Nene Sanchez. A couple of other fighters with championship potential: Filipinos Andy Tabanas and Joma Gamboa.

Think About It: Strawweight is the only division that has never had an American world champion. In fact, an American has never even fought for the title. Among the 47 different fighters ranked by the WBA, WBC, and IBF, not one is American. There is no bias at work here. There simply aren't any worthy red-white-and-blue strawweights. In fact, are there any American strawweights at all? ■

Ricardo Lopez



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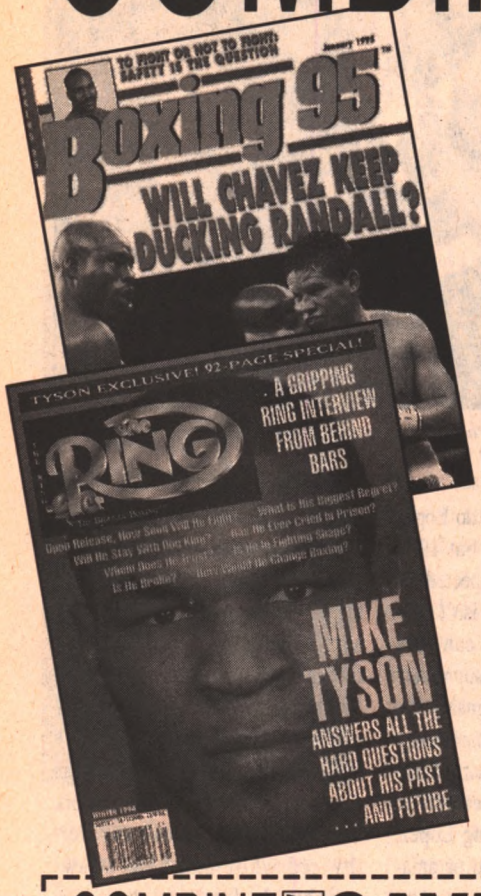

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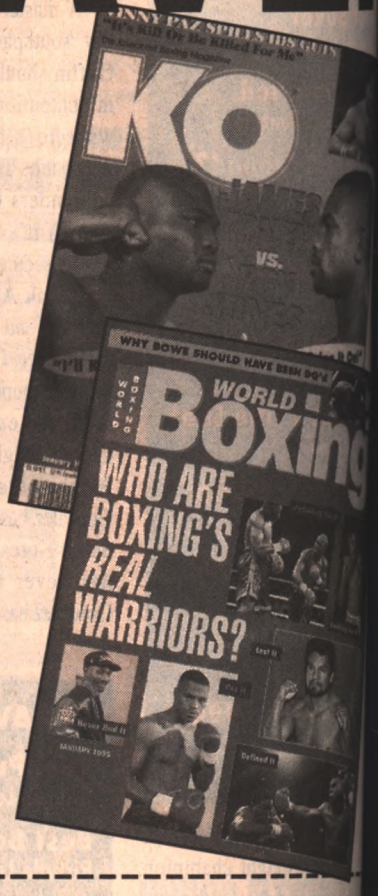

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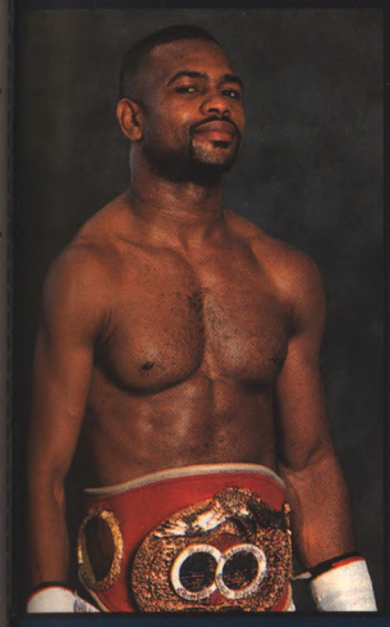
Photo by Jason Ross Lavin

PAZ SLAMS OLD MAN DURAN...

BUT WILL A SHOWDOWN WITH ROY JONES BE A SHAM?



By Nigel Collins

Boxing purists have always looked down their noses at Vinny Pazienza. All superficial flash and little substance, they like to sniff. But now, with so few marketable fighters around, the sport is downright grateful for the bulked-up motormouth and his army of Pazmaniacs. Aesthetics are nice, but money is nicer.

You won't find Paz' name on many pound-for-pound lists. And his second victory over Roberto Duran, though far more definitive than the first, was hardly the stuff legends are made of. But despite everything, Paz is currently hot property. It's a situation that says a lot more about the state of the game than it says about Pazienza.

As improbable as it might sound, outside of George Foreman and Julio Cesar Chavez, there's not a bigger draw in boxing right now

Photos by Jason Ross Lavin

What a difference a rematch can make: For 12 rounds, Pazienza was dominant, firing all kinds of punches at his legendary foe (above). And whenever Duran set himself to punch, Paz simply employed a Jersey Joe Walcott-like walkaway (right).

than Paz. The 11,115 paying customers who showed up at the Atlantic City Convention Center to witness Pazienza-Duran II were only the tip of the financial iceberg. According to TVKO Senior Vice President Mark Taffet, the pay-per-view buy-rate surpassed that of the first fight, when sales topped 130,000. And at $24.95 a pop, that adds up to a nice hunk of change.

Pazienza's box-office prowess has placed him in a bittersweet situation. On one hand, his next fight just might be the most lucrative of his 11-year career. The downside is that he'll have to face undefeated IBF super middleweight champion Roy Jones to earn it. Going from Duran to Jones is like outlobbing Bobby Riggs and then trying to trade serves with Pete Sampras.

But just because Jones-Pazienza has all the earmarks of a mismatch, that doesn't mean it's not going happen. Pazienza, 32, was spouting off about fighting Jones even before spanking Duran a second time. And as soon as his arm was raised in victory, the hype machine shifted into high gear.

"I think I can beat Roy Jones," said Pazienza shortly after outspeeding Duran for a unanimous decision by scores of 118-110 (Deborah Barnes), 117-111 (Tim Figley), and 116-112 (Joseph Pasquale). (THE RING scored for Paz by 119-110.) "How confident am I? Well, I'll be going in there gunning. It's no joke. I'll be all over the place. Jones will see an intensity he's never seen before. And after I beat Jones, I'm gonna take a year off and then move up to light heavyweight."

Easy, Vinny. Let's stick to one miracle at a time. Not everybody shares your limitless confidence. Your old playmate, Roberto, figures it's a no-brainer.

"Vinny Pazienza will not beat any of those young guys," said Duran with the resigned air of a man who has been there.

In fact, even those who figure to share in the bounty a Jones-Pazienza bout will generate are guardedly optimistic at best.

"I'm really not sure if Vinny has any chance against Jones," said Lou DiBella, vice president of HBO Sports. "But it's a fight people are going to want to see. At least Pazienza comes to fight."

Initially, Jones seemed insulted that such a match was even being considered.

"Would *you* be interested in seeing me fi Pazienza?" sneered Jones in response to a qu from THE RING. "What would be my motiv tion?"

Sounds like Jones is one of those snoo purists. But somebody must have whispered number in his ear—one with a lot of ze affixed to it—because shortly thereafter, sounded slightly more enthusiastic. But on slightly.

"Vinny looked good tonight, he looked v good," allowed Jones. "He has that style th would throw any guy off. And anybody can ha a bad day, so a lot of things come into play could be a heck of a fight. But I'm not in bou to hurt anybody. I care about people. If som thing happened, I'd have to live with myself."

Way to talk up the fight, Roy.

Of course, thousands of Pazmaniacs, th lovable, ticket-buying zanies who make Pazie such a valuable commodity, see things from a entirely different perspective. They've faithfu stuck by their hero through all the ups and dow and, to a large degree, their loyalty has be rewarded.

Cynics, on the other hand, have written Paz almost as many times as they've written Duran. They said he was finished after losses Greg Haugen, Roger Mayweather, Hect Camacho, and Loreto Garza. And they were p tive it was all over after a November 1991 m wreck broke Paz' neck and threatened to put h in a wheelchair for the rest of his life.

But the bent-nosed pug with a gift for gab still here, still talking trash, still winning figh

still commanding big bucks for his services. And even if you think he's the most overrated, overpaid prize fighter in history, you've got to admire his chutzpah.

Like Foreman, Paz has the knack of reinventing himself. He started off as a tear-away slugger, the kind of guy who let it all hang out every time the bell rang. But he eventually discovered that an impertinent attitude, unbridled enthusiasm, and a seemingly inexhaustible supply of energy isn't always enough. Since miraculously coming back from his car crash, he's refined his boxing skills, becoming more of a thinker than a brawler. The Paz pizzazz is still there, but these days it's ladled out with a heaping side order of savvy.

Paz has also reinvented himself physically. He's added layer upon layer of muscle, gradually transforming himself from a slender lightweight into a pec-popping super middleweight. And the most ironic part is that the bigger Paz gets, the less of a slugger he becomes.

One thing that hasn't changed over the years is Paz' penchant for tacky ring attire. For his encore with Duran, he selected a quilted, metallic-silver ensemble with red devil horns sprouting from the hood. It's all part of the Paz persona, part of what endears him to a sizable portion of the paying public.

In the second Duran fight, Paz' metamorphosis reached a new phase. Unlike their first encounter, when Duran did enough damage to cast doubt on the decision, the rematch wasn't even close. This time around there was no knockdown for Paz to survive, no gory cuts to turn his face into a mask of blood. All ringsiders saw was a younger, fresher, quicker man boxing circles around a pudgy geezer who vaguely resembled a once-great fighter named Duran.

The straight right was there any time Pazienza, 40-5 (27), felt like throwing it. The punch smacked into Duran's head with regularity, but never really hurt him. While practically every other aspect of his game has deteriorated, Duran's chin, unlike his belly, is still as hard as a rock.

"The guy's only been stopped one time in over 100 fights," reminded Pazienza. "I stopped him in his tracks a couple of times, but I couldn't finish him. He's like one of those big redwood trees, with the big, round base. And he's got that big, ugly head on top of his shoulders. He's a hard guy to hurt."

Although Duran, 167¾, Panama City, Panama, was lucky to be awarded more than one or two rounds, it wasn't for want of trying. This was no take-the-money-and-run job. No *no mas*. He stalked Pazienza, 168, Cranston, Rhode Island, throughout the bout, trying his best to get something going. But the ravages of time and his opponent's superior reflexes were too much to overcome. He was always a step too slow or a punch too late. Still, when it was over, Duran, 94-11 (65), was as irascible as ever and predictably rejected any notion of retirement.

"If he had had the crap knocked out of him, it would be different," said Luis DeCubas, Duran's manager.

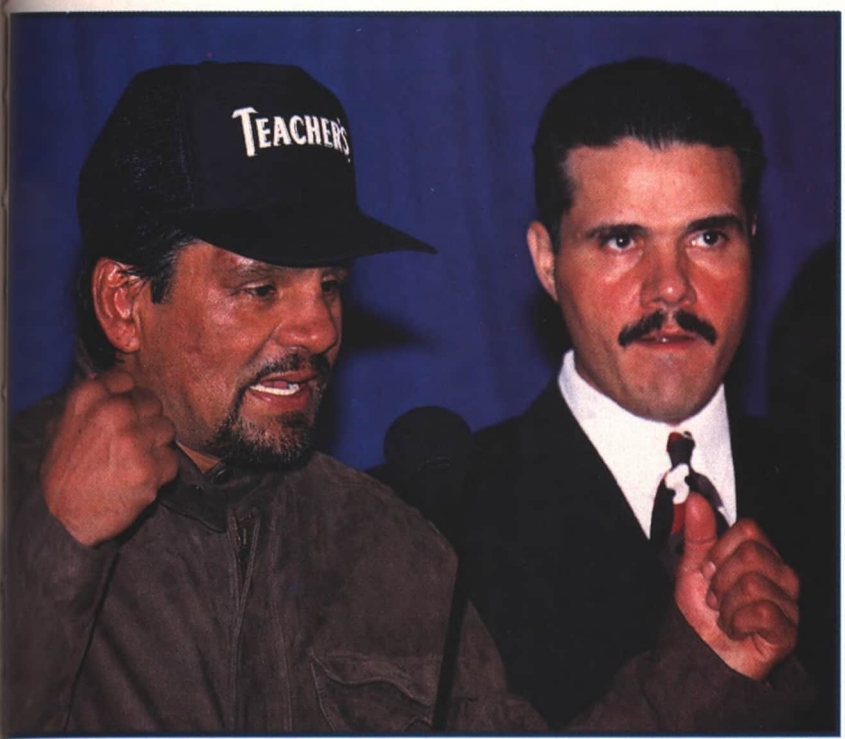
Actually, *nobody* had the crap knocked out of him. Much of the acrimonious bickering that spiced the first fight was absent this time. Rather than bitter enemies, "The Pazmanian Devil" and "Hands Of Stone" seemed more like a grumpy uncle and his rambunctious nephew.

While nobody could accuse either man of dogging it, the intensity level was several notches below their hectic first encounter. Part of the reason was Paz' more cerebral approach. He's grown increasingly fond of the old Jersey Joe Walcott walk-away move, and frequently broke off the action, swiveled on the balls of his feet, and casually strolled away from the fray. The result was less wear and tear on all concerned, but also far fewer thrills.

Perhaps Pazienza was more concerned with preserving his cut-prone eyebrows than taking it easy on his avuncular opponent. With the sharpshooting Jones in his future, Paz' scar tissue can use all the rest it can get. Still, it would be unwise to dismiss his chances altogether. Sure, Jones looked next to unbeatable in outclassing James Toney, but Paz has fooled us before. And there's always a chance he'll do it again. Beneath the showbiz veneer there beats the heart of a warrior. It was his heart, along with a sizable stubborn streak, that enabled him to return to boxing when doctors told him his career was over. After suffering a broken neck, anything Jones can do to him must seem trivial by comparison.

In a way, it's good to see Paz reaping the rewards of a long and often punishing career. Hang around him long enough and you'll quickly discover one of the main reasons for his popularity: The Pazmanian Devil is a people-person, always accessible to fans and media, always ready with an autograph or a quote. People are sick of arrogant athletes who think they're better than the folks who pay their wages, and they respond positively when a down-to-earth guy comes along. Despite the razzle-dazzle and the *Penthouse* Pet girlfriend, Paz has retained the common touch.

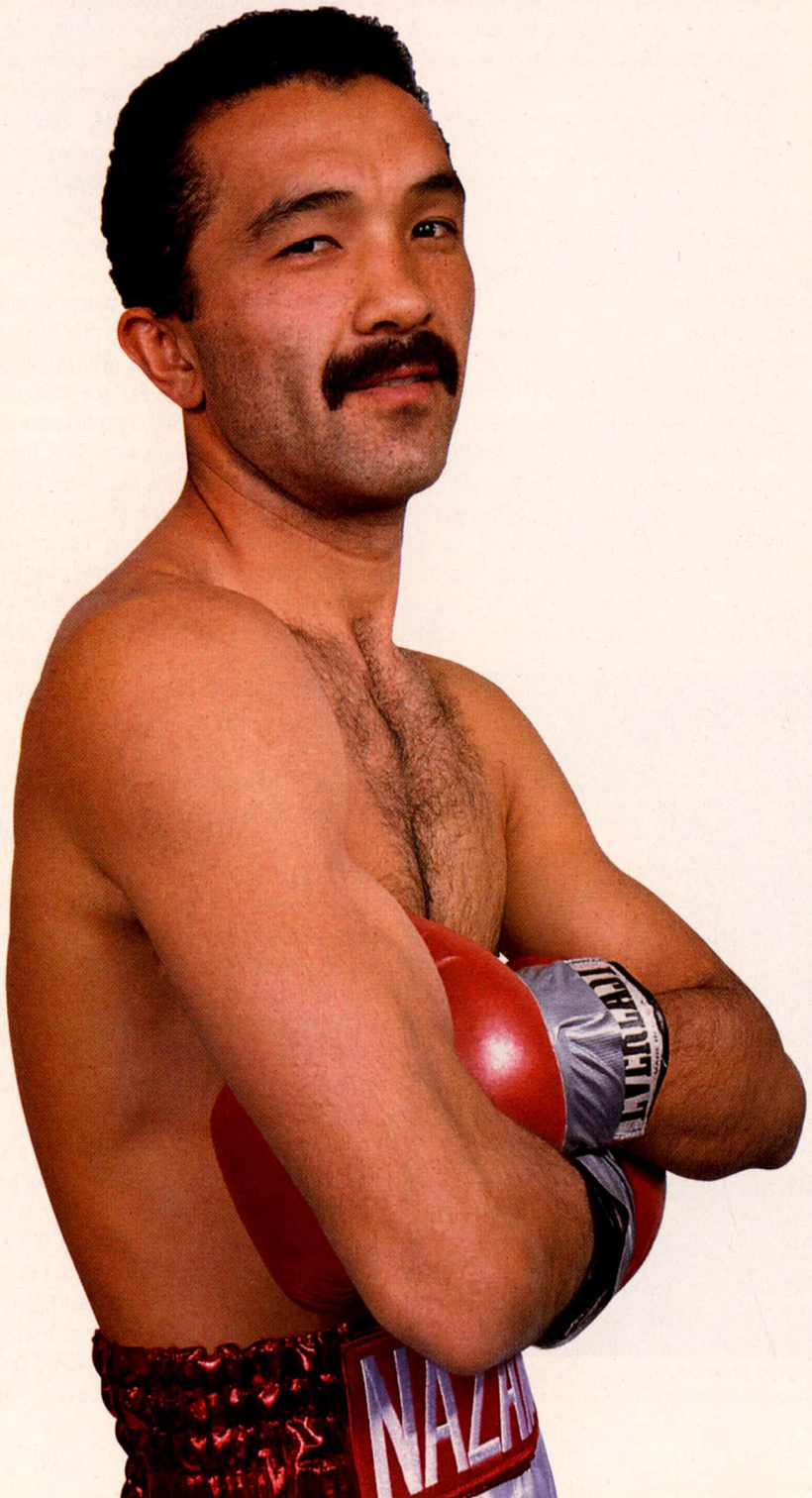
You see, there are a lot of folks out there who care more about a fighter's personality than his punch stats. And when you get right down to it, that's the real reason Paz is getting a shot at Jones—and the real reason boxing needs him so desperately right now. There are other fighters who probably have a better chance of beating Jones, but not enough people give a damn. One way or another, at least Paz makes you care. ■



To no one's surprise, Duran announced at the postfight press conference that he plans to fight on. "Hands Of Stone" didn't exactly get beaten up. At his right is manager Luis DeCubas.

Nazarov Olzubek & Yuri Arbachakov

Photos by Jason Ross Lavin



BORN IN MADE IN RUSSIA, JAPAN

By Robert Cassidy

It was the entrepreneurial spirit that led Masauki "Mack" Kanehira to the Soviet Union five years ago. Times were changing, democracy was beckoning, and so was free enterprise. Soviet athletes, long a dominant force in the world of amateur sports, were about to be turned loose as professionals. Kanehira wanted to capitalize on it.

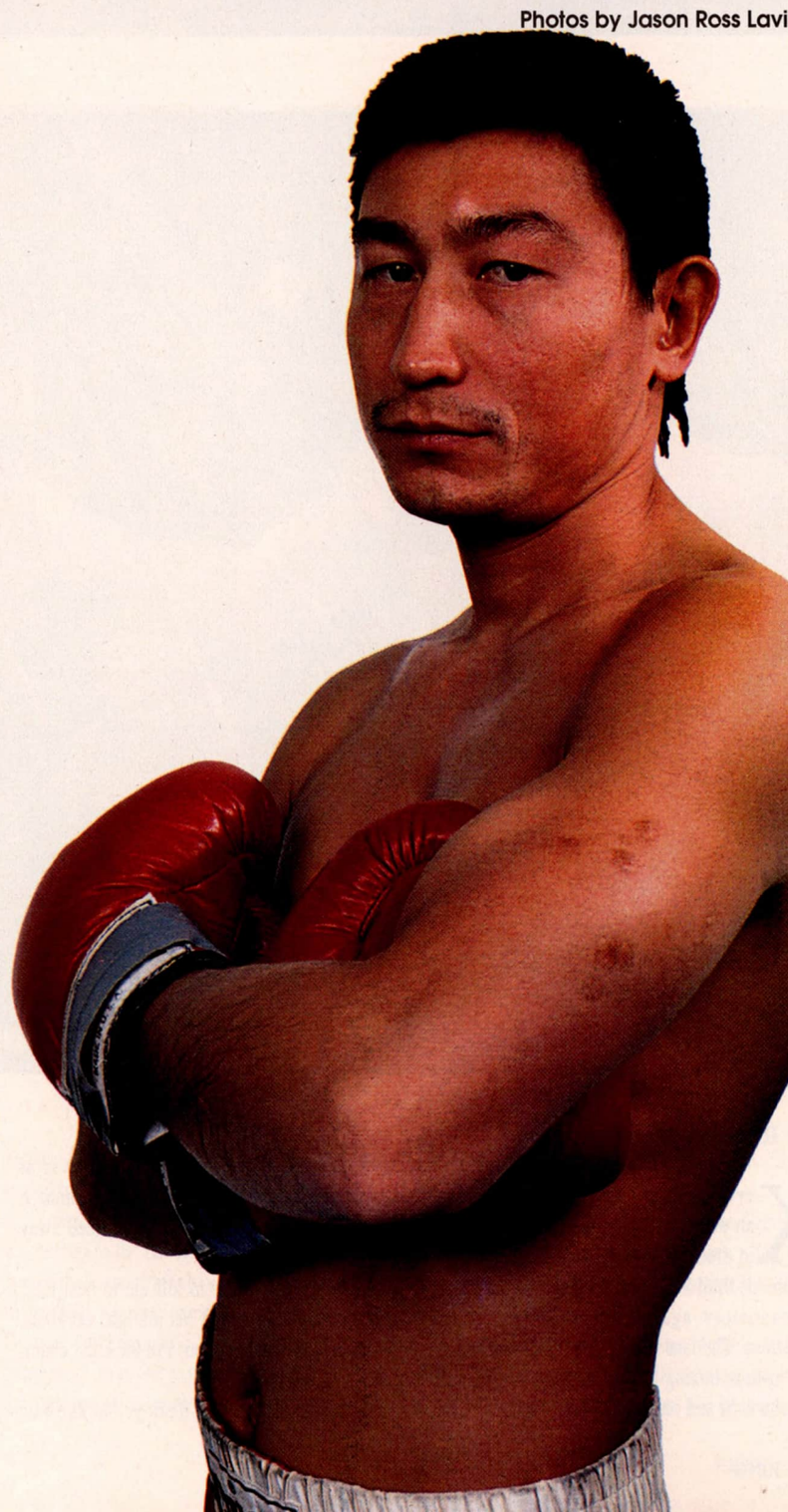
A 44-year-old former pro boxer and Thai-style boxer, Kanehira is the second-generation manager, promoter, and proprietor of the Kyoei Boxing Gym, which his uncle Masaki Kanehira conceived 30 years ago. Tokyo's Kyoei Boxing Gym, known as the House of Champions, is as close as one can get to a ring dynasty; only the Kronk Gym has produced as many champions. Out of Kyoei have come world titlists Hiroyuki Ebihara, Shozo Saijyo, Yoko Gushiken, Flipper Uehara, Katsuo Tokashiki, Katsuya Onizuka, Yuri Arbachakov, and Nazarov Olzubek. It has been Kanehira's vision to build on that dynasty. That vision led him to the Soviet Union.

When the walls of communism began to crumble in the late-'80s, fighters from the former Soviet Union began showing up all over the globe in hopes of reaping the money and fame that accompanies professional boxing. But so far, Soviet expansion into the Sweet Science has had mixed results. Some fighters campaign in relative anonymity in Europe. A handful of fighters wound up in New York City, led by a left-handed heavyweight hopeful named Yuri Vaulin. The best of that much-publicized group, Sergei Artemiev, a lightweight who managed to crack the top 10, was forced into retirement after suffering head injuries during a knockout loss to Carl Griffith in 1993.

Other Russians have enjoyed more success. Cruiserweight Andrei Rudenko unsuccessfully challenged for the WBC cruiserweight title. Kostya Tszyu and Sergei Kobozev are considered can't-miss future champions, and southpaw heavyweight Alexandre Zolkin has begun to rise in a division lacking depth. But none of the Russian pros can match Arbachakov and Olzubek, both of whom were plucked out of the bondage of communism by Kanehira and transplanted to Tokyo. To further insure his investment, Kanehira brought with them Zimin Alexandre, their Russian trainer.

Arbachakov, 19-0 (15), became the first fighter from the former Soviet Union to win a professional world title when he stopped Muangchai Kittikasem to capture the WBC flyweight title in June 1992. The southpaw Olzubek, 20-0 (15), followed 16 months later, climbing off the canvas to decision defending WBA lightweight titlist Dingaan Thobela. Both continue to reign.

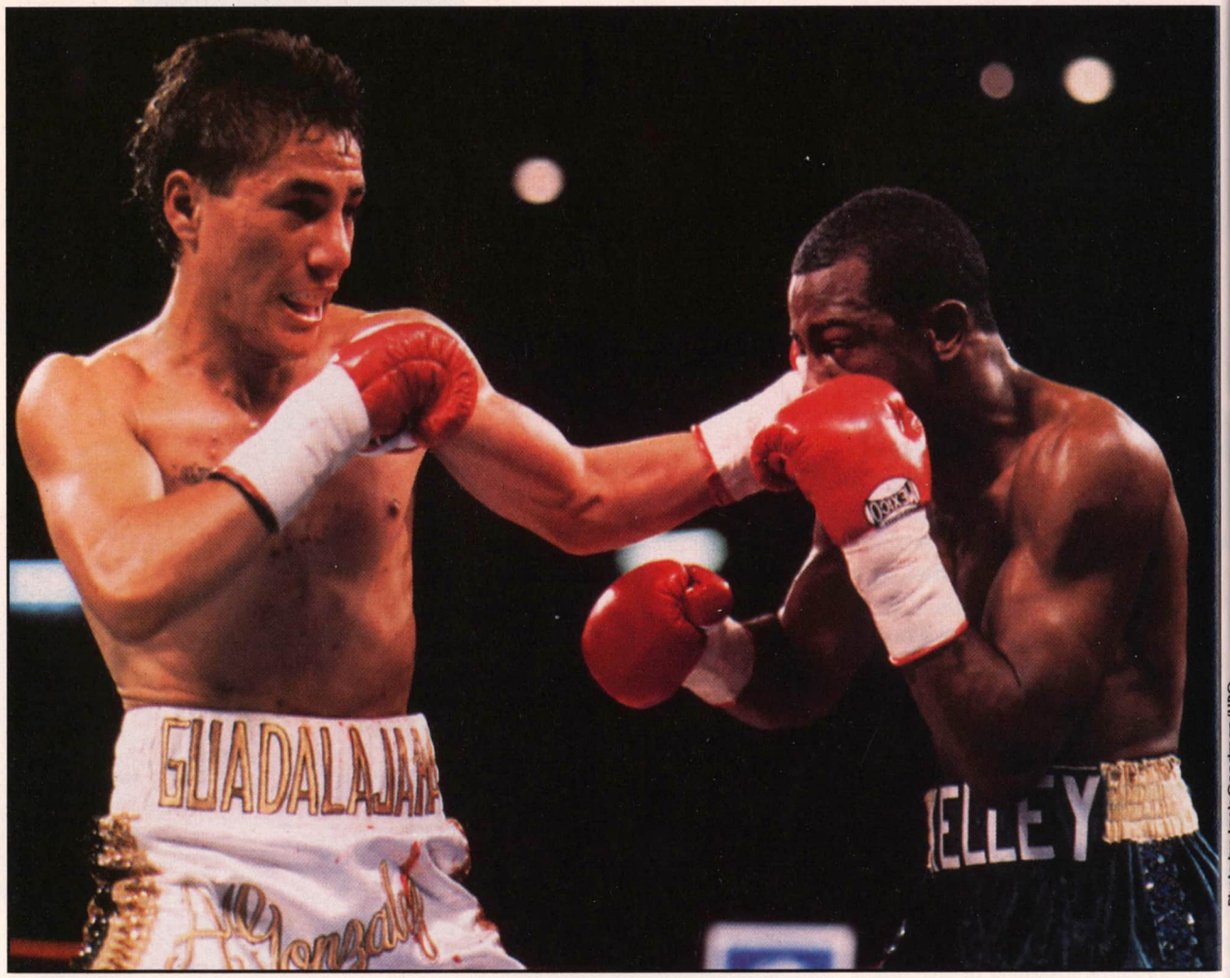
(Continued on page 56)



Shocker In San Antonio!

GONZALEZ-KELLEY

The First Great Fight Of 1995



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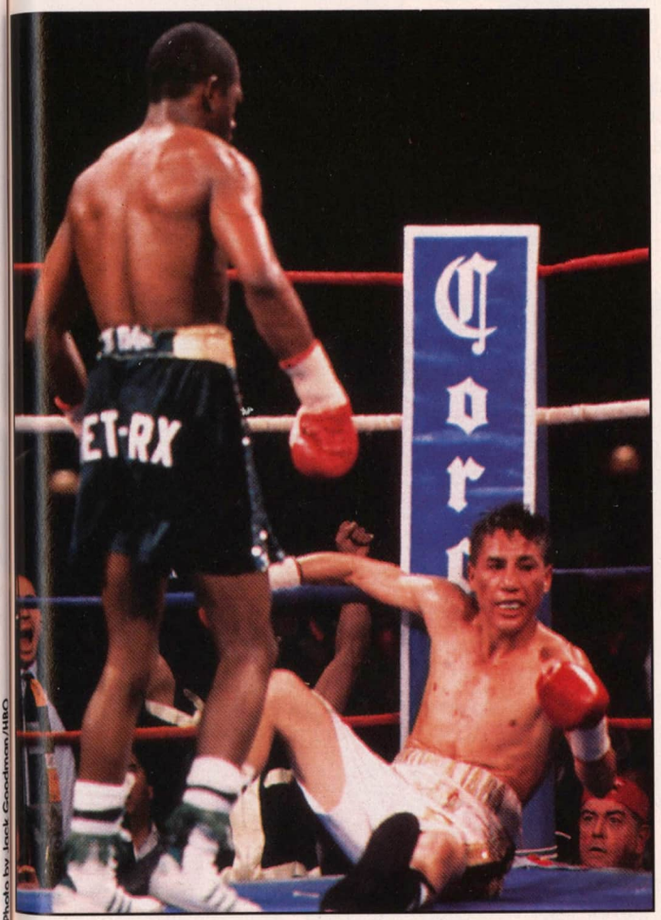
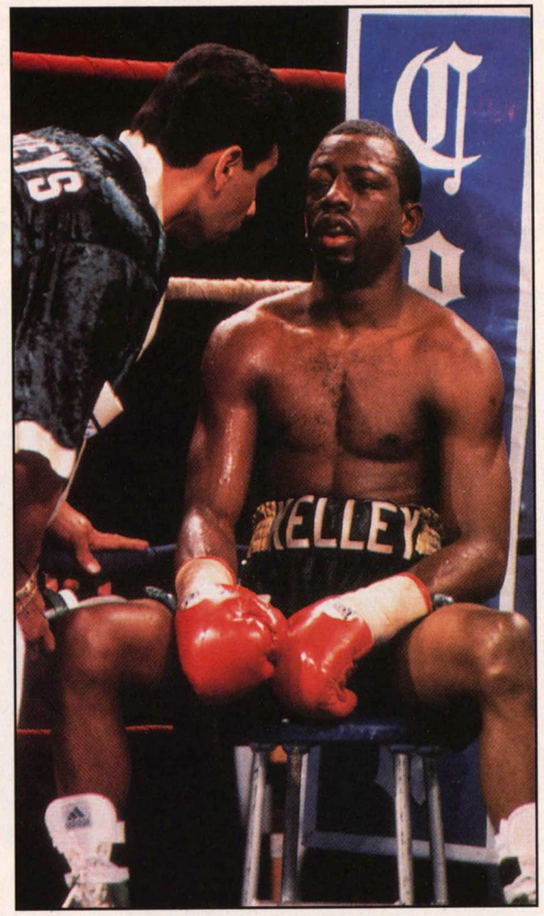




Photos by Jack Goodman/HBO

Kelley almost pulled off a miraculous comeback when he dropped Gonzalez in round eight (left). However, the challenger rebounded strongly, and only a couple of rounds later, trainer Phil Borgia saw that the partially blinded Kelley wasn't fit to continue (right).

By Richard Martinez

Kevin Kelley, a magnificent pitchman and an even better pugilist, strutted his stuff in front of wide-eyed onlookers days before his third WBC featherweight title defense, a mandatory against Mexico's Alejandro Gonzalez. The fans of San Antonio, no strangers to big-time boxing talent, were impressed with the charisma and confidence that oozed out of the fighter from New York City. Kelley came in as the media darling. There was not a microphone, a camera, or a reporter's pad that he turned away from.

"He's going to have to kill me to beat me," Kelley said during one of his prefight workouts. "I'm the people's champion; I'm the kids' champion."

Gonzalez didn't kill Kelley, but the two engaged in a savage ring war for 10 rounds before more than 8,000 frenzied fans in San Antonio's Freeman Coliseum. At the finish, "The Flushing Flash" had both eyes nearly swollen shut as he sat on his stool after the end of the 10th round.

"You can't see?" trainer Phil Borgia asked his champion.

"I'm having trouble seeing; my eyes are almost shut," Kelley responded.

With that, Borgia called a halt to the first great fight of 1995, giving the New Yorker, who had almost singlehandedly lifted lower-weight fighters into prime time on HBO, his first loss in 42 fights.

The story of the night was not only Kelley losing, but the spectacular victory of a relatively unknown fighter. Though not as flamboyant as Kelley, Gonzalez also oozed charisma, and more importantly, determination.

Young enough that six months ago he couldn't step up to the bar and order a beer, Gonzalez is now the toast of Mexico. At 21, he showed that in boxing, age can be misleading. (Perhaps George Foreman had already proven that.) "Cobrita" may be young, but he did climb through the ropes with 36 bouts under his belt. His first three pro fights came before his 15th birthday.

"When I was younger, I used to like fighting in the streets," he said. "I always had a lot of energy inside me. I like living dangerously. I like fast cars.

"Because of the way I was, people—my friends and family—used to tell me to go train as a boxer. As it turned out, it was the best thing

that happened to me. I was made for boxing. I can let out all my built-in energy, and it's legal."

Gonzalez, who hails from Guadalajara, honed his skills in the Mexican arenas. His fight against Kelley was but his third outside the borders of his homeland. But in San Antonio, where more than 50 percent of the population is Hispanic, Gonzalez was at ease. In essence, it was a home-away-from home-fight. And while the locals were wowed by Kelley, Gonzalez proved quite popular, too.

"Alejandro is a great person," said Anthony Crespo, a spokesman for the fighter's promotional group. "You'll meet Alejandro once, and the next time he sees you, it'll be like he's your best friend."

With his boyish smile and well-mannered demeanor, Gonzalez won over San Antonio quickly. He was greeted with a standing ovation when he entered the ring, and upon Michael Buffer's introduction, the response grew deafening.

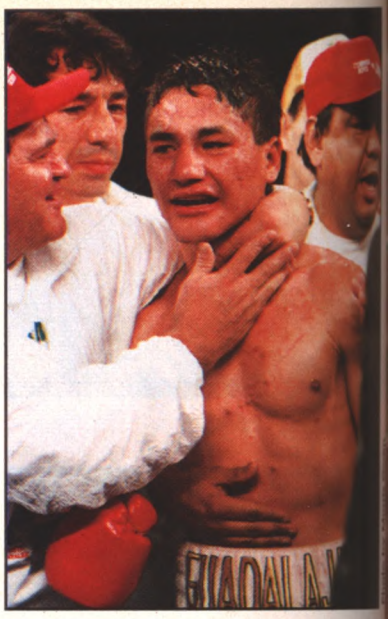
In the first round, Kelley, 126, couldn't turn away from Gonzalez' pressing attack. The Mexican set the pace early, willingly trading punches with the champion from the opening bell. Gonzalez, 126, scored with solid counters, backing up Kelley throughout the round, and as it would turn out, throughout the fight.

After three rounds, Kelley's handlers knew the champion was up against a mandatory challenger who was deserving of his lofty status. If they ever considered Gonzalez a steppingstone, they had had a change of heart after nine minutes of brutal action.

"I'm not playing with this guy, and you better stop playing with him," Borgia screamed to Kelley after the third round.

In the fourth, Gonzalez had one of his better rounds, as he backed a confused Kelley into a corner and unleashed a flurry of punches, including lefts to the midsection and rights to the head. Kelley fought back gamely, but even when he

(Continued on page 57)



After Kelley surrendered in his corner, the new champion wept for himself and his country. "It's an honor bringing back the title that belonged to Mexico for so many years," he said.

ROBERT QUIROGA: ONE FIGHT AND OUT

Robert Quiroga is used to being first. He was the first San Antonio boxer to win a world title; he is the only San Antonian to have successfully defended a world title; and after suffering an eight-round majority decision loss to journeyman Ancee Gideon on the undercard of the Gonzalez-Kelley, Vasquez-Canizales doubleheader in his hometown, he became the first fighter to retire in 1995.

"I was in excellent condition," he said. "I felt good in there and I thought I was ahead on points. In the later rounds it just wasn't there when I tried to step it up.

"That's it for me as a boxer. I wanted to give it one more try. It didn't happen. I just couldn't get it going my way tonight. I'm really thankful to the fans who've been behind me all the way."

Quiroga hadn't fought since losing the IBF junior bantamweight title to Julio Borboa in January 1993. That bout, like his loss to Gideon, came at the Freeman Coliseum. In the two years between ring appearances, he spent time with his family, invested the estimated $400,000 he grossed for six title defenses, did community service work, and completed courses in fire fighting.

What he never did was retire. His return was long-awaited, and Quiroga, 117, was expected to handle Gideon, 117, a native of Haiti fighting out of Orange, California. The hometown favorite started well, as Gideon waited to land a bomb. In the third, a right to the chin dropped Gideon, 11-7-1 (4), to one knee. However, in the fourth, Quiroga's left eye began to swell shut, and Gideon moved forward the rest of the way. The Californian emerged victorious by scores of 77-74, 77-75, and 76-76. THE RING had Quiroga in front by 76-75.

Two years ago, when Quiroga, 20-2 (11), left the ring after suffering a 12th-round stoppage vs. Borboa, he was pelted by cups. This time, there were sad looks and scattered yells of encouragement. The fans seemed to sense the end had come.

–Bruce Williams

Quiroga couldn't cut down Gideon

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Photo by Morris Goen

By Stanley Weston
Publisher, THE RING Magazine

TIME CAPSULES

LIGHTS OUT

(November 13, 1953)

His man had been so badly mangled that manager Hymie Wallman banned the press from Johnny Bratton's dressing room for more than half an hour "to give us time to clean him up." When the door was finally opened and reporters shoved their way inside, they saw Bratton huddled and weeping under layers of blankets. "C'mon, kid. You're okay. You can sit up now," consoled lead trainer Freddie Fierro. Slowly, painfully, the man known as the most skilled boxer of his time moved to a sitting position on the edge of the rubbing table to face the barrage of popping flashes. But he couldn't see a thing. What looked like a pair of ripe tomatoes bulged from where his eyes were supposed to be.

Nobody was allowed in his dressing room for more than a half-hour. When the press was finally let in, the writers saw a "cleaned up" Bratton sitting upright, but totally blind in both eyes.

Bratton's heroic attempt to knock Kid Gavilan off his welterweight throne that night before an overflow crowd at Chicago Stadium is one of those rare benchmarks in the sport's history that those fortunate enough to have witnessed it will never forget. Gavilan, the bolo-punching Cuban with the endurance of a marathon runner, had the hard experience of 111 fights feeding his every dazzling move. And on this particular night he could do nothing wrong. Every trick worked to perfection. Even when he exploded two, three, four bolos in a single attack, all were on target. Remarkably, Bratton almost held his own through the first seven rounds. Then, as if his battery had suddenly died, only instinct and raw guts kept him alive.

Jack Cuddy of United Press summed it up: "Bratton was taking such a merciless battering that there were cries of 'Stop it, stop it,' from the more tender-hearted fans in every round after the seventh. And on many occasions it seemed that referee Frank Gilmer might end it; but just about then the brave Bratton, with his right eye completely closed and his left nearly shut, would spring to life and throw a punch or two.

"Bratton, known as a fragile chap because his jaw had been broken three times earlier in his career, took one of the worst beatings any fighter ever endured, went through to the end, and survived on his feet—without going down even once ... "

Understandably, Johnny Bratton was never the same again. He fought only three more times, losing a pair of decisions and finally ending his glorious career by being kayoed.

THEY ALWAYS COME BACK

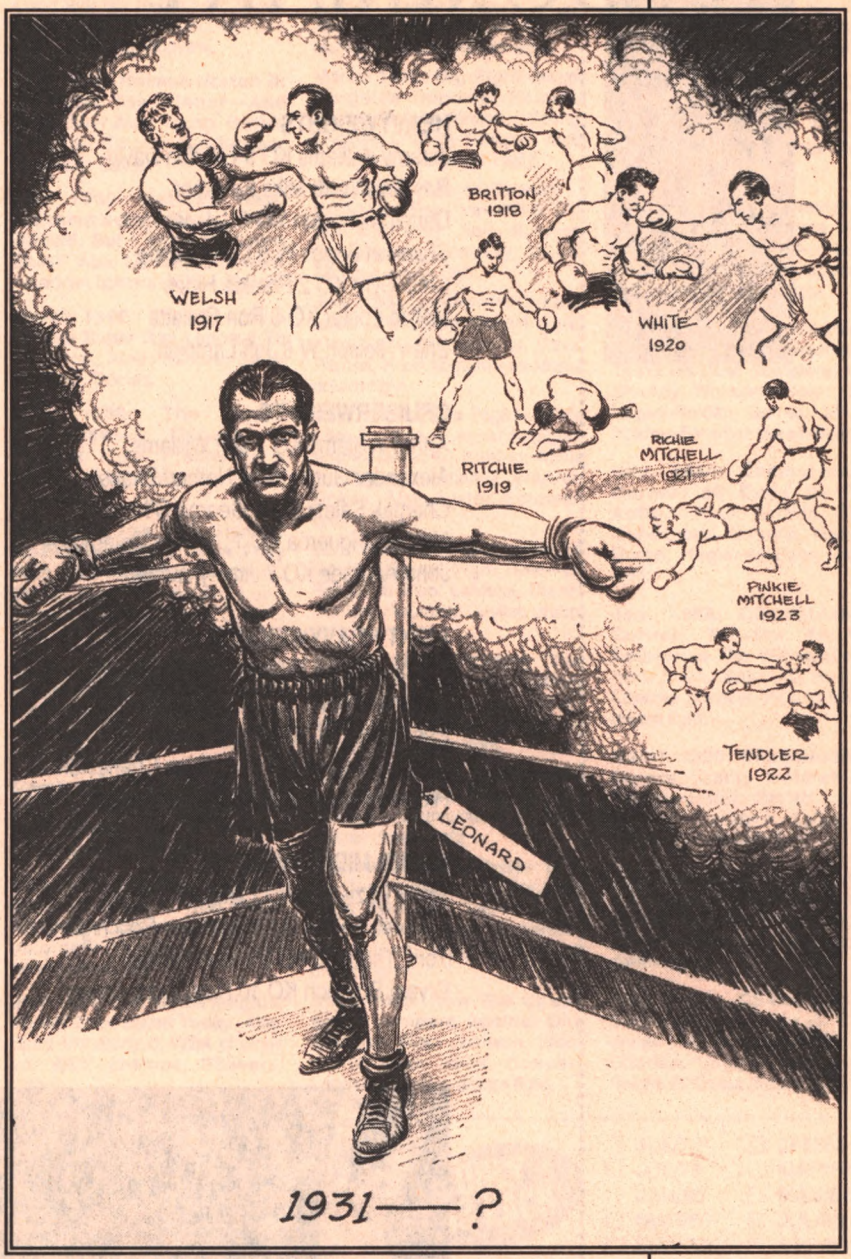
(September 1931)

"Oh, no, Benny. Not *you*!" That was the general reaction when 35-year-old Benny Leonard made the shocking proclamation, "I am returning to the ring. A couple of weeks roughing it up in the mountains, a few tuneup matches, and I'm sure I'll be ready for a title fight." The once-peerless lightweight champion of the world seemed surprisingly confident as he met the press at a mid-Manhattan steak house to tell his army of adoring admirers the one word they dreaded hearing from Benny Leonard: comeback.

It had been a long seven years—a lifetime for a prize fighter—since Leonard had a pair of boxing gloves tied to his hands, and six years since he had announced his retirement as undefeated lightweight champion of the world. With more than $1-million safely invested, Benny would never again have to work a day in his life. Then, *boom!* The 1929 stock market crash wiped away his bundle, along with the bundles of millions of other "safe" investors. Broke and despondent, the once-champion of champions had but one place to look for survival—the prize ring. Boxing was the only trade he ever really understood.

With the shrewdest manager who ever lived, Jack "Doc" Kearns, at the controls, and master trainer Ray Arcel mapping strategy, Leonard tortured what remained of his once-magnificent body to the breaking point, trimming off 34 pounds of superfluous flab and then sliding gracefully through the ropes in New Haven, Connecticut, on the night of September 9, 1931, to launch his comeback in a two-round exhibition against somebody named Karl Lautchlager.

In the 12 months that followed, Benny remained remarkably active, straining what remained of his skills in 24 matches, mainly 10-rounders, against predominantly basket cases, but with a name foe occasionally thrown in. Kearns' strategy was aimed at a single goal: that big-money shot. It came on October 7, 1932, at Madison Square Garden, against a young, murderous-punching Irishman named Jimmy McLarnin. Only Benny's raw courage, instinct, and a few spurts of former brilliance kept him going for six rounds, before referee Arthur Donovan ended the slaughter. It was the worst beating Leonard had ever endured in his long, remarkable career. But at least he had a fresh bankroll. ■



A cartoon published in the October 1931 issue of THE RING *shows a paunchy, balding, 35-year-old Leonard soon after the legendary former champion announced his comeback. Background sketches depict highlights of his remarkable career.*

SUMMARY

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Jeremy Williams KO 9 Everton Davis
Ray Anis W 10 Mike Faulkner
Danell Nicholson KO 5 J.J. Jackson
Shannon Briggs W 8 Craig Payne
Chris Byrd KO 2 Frankie Hines
Melvin Foster KO 3 Ron Gullette
Brian Nielsen W 8 Jeff Lampkin

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Arthur Williams KO 1 Jeff Williams
Alexander Gurov KO 1 Norbert Ekassi
Chemak Saleta KO 2 George O'Mara
Marcelo Figueroa KO 1 Josimar Unterholzer
John Andrade KO 7 Jimmy James

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Prince Charles Williams Tech. Draw 7
Merqui Sosa
Eric French W 10 Tyrone Trice
Rocky Marcetta KO 9 Matthew Charleston
Richard Frazier W 8 Anthony Hembrick

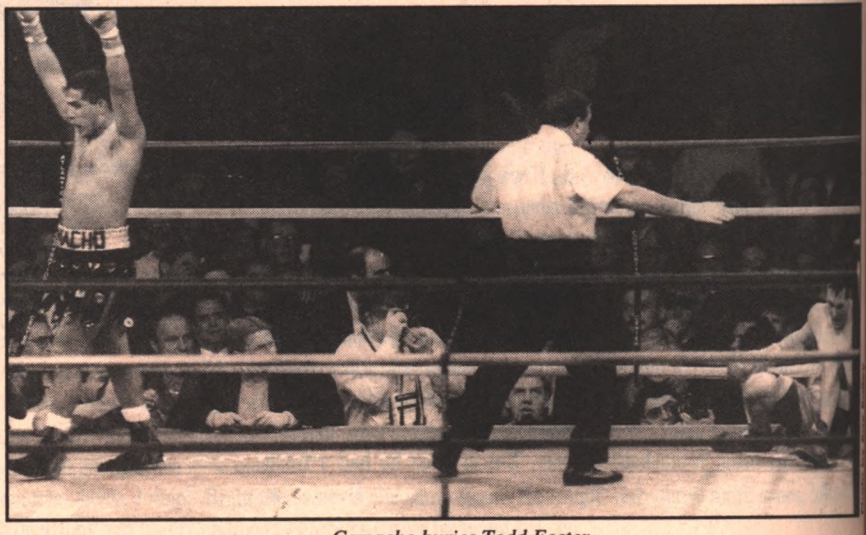
SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Vinny Pazienza W 12 Roberto Duran
Frederic Seillier D 12 Graciano Rocchigiani
Tony Thornton KO 2 Daren Zenner
Bryant Brannon KO 10 Hard Rock Green

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Quincy Taylor KO 12 Rodney Toney
Lonnie Bradley KO 3 Karl Willis
Aaron Davis KO 3 Dennis Milton

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Buddy McGirt W 10 Buck Smith
Laurent Boudouani KO 9 Javier Castillejo
Raul Marquez W 10 Alain Bonnamie
Eric Holland KO 5 Israel Figueroa
Andrew Council W 10 Anthony Ivory

WELTERWEIGHTS
Hector Camacho KO 5 Todd Foster
Larry Barnes W 10 Eddie Mercedes
Jose Luis Navarro KO 10 Del Bryan
Greg Haugen KO 4 Mark Brannon
Alessandro Duran W 12 Santo Serrio
Pepe Reilly KO 5 Ismael Diaz
William Ruiz W 10 Javier Altimirano
Mike Mungin KO 2 Delbert McNeil

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
Ray Oliveira W 8 Manuel Bautista
Roger Mayweather KO 3 Benny Barra
Scott Walker W 10 Alexis Arguello
Soren Sondergaard KO 2 Bobby Johnson
Pat Barrett W 8 Marino Monteyne
Michele Piccirillo W 12 Viktor Baranov
Kenny Vice W 12 Alvin Patten



Camacho buries Todd Foster

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Miguel Julio KO 2 Norge Galvis
Fabian Tejeda KO 1 Francisco Valdez
Pete Taliaferro KO 4 Alvin Patten
Johnny Montantasz W 10 Pat Chavez

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
Floyd Havard KO 10 Davey McHale
Eduardo Perez W 10 Jeff Mayweather
Rafael Meran W 12 Javier Leon
Yuji Watanabe KO 2 Aljoe Jaro

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Alejandro Gonzalez KO 10 Kevin Kelley
(Wins WBC Title)
Chico Castillo W 10 Juan Macias
Daryl Pinckney KO 1 Louie Leija
Bones Adams W 10 Little Guns Pumar
Jesse Magana KO 5 Rudy Zavala

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS
Wilfredo Vasquez W 12 Orlando Canizales
(Retains WBA Title)
Reynaldo Hurtado W 10 Julio Barbosa
Hiroaki Yokota W 10 Ernie Urdaniza

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Harold Mestre KO 8 Juvenal Berrio
(Wins Vacant IBF Title)
Gerardo Martinez KO 3 Carlos Salinas
Tim Austin KO 1 Arturo Estrada

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS
Hiroshi Kawashima W 12 Jose Luis Bueno
(Retains WBC Title)
Ancee Gideon W 8 Robert Quiroga
Joel Luna Zarate KO 4 Alcibiades Gallegos
Samson Elite-Gym KO 8 Rolando Pascua

FLYWEIGHTS
Scotty Olson W 12 Roger Espanola
Hiroki Ioka W 10 Lee Escobido
Francis Ampofo KO 2 Daren Fifield
Abdi Pohan W 12 Roger Gamayot

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS
Miguel Martinez KO 3 Ventura Mendevil
Yuichi Hosono KO 2 Joung Yul Bang

STRAWWEIGHTS
Dominggus Siwalete KO 3 Sianam Chandeeloha

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RINGSIDE REPORTS

FIGHTER *of the* MONTH

After Mexico's Gonzalez struggled to outpoint countryman Cesar Soto in a WBC eliminator last August *(see story on page 40)*, the majority of ringsiders decided he wasn't a threat to world champion Kevin Kelley. Ever notice how often boxing experts are wrong?

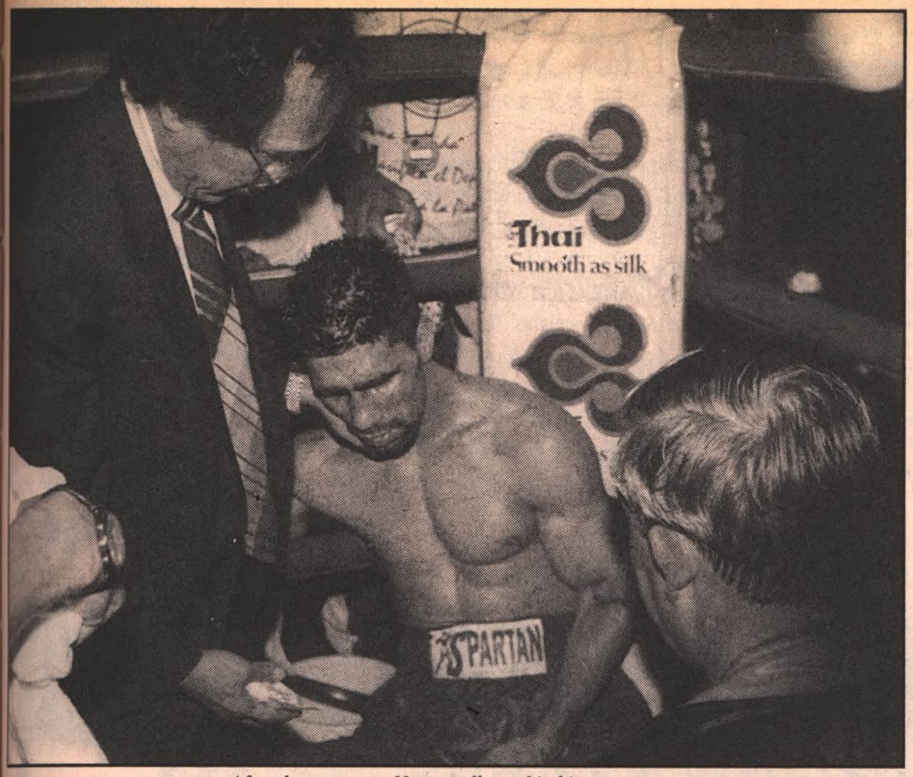
Let's hope that in nine months, when the same experts consider 1995's Fight of the Year, Gonzalez' 10th-round stoppage of Kelley isn't forgotten because it came seven days into January. Afterward, Kelley was lauded for a memorable display of courage. But what of Gonzalez? Let's not forget that the newly crowned champion was dropped and almost stopped in the eighth round. In halting one of the game's finest champions, he displayed a lot more than punching power and boxing skills.

As we went to press, Gonzalez was preparing for his first defense, a battle vs. veteran Louie Espinoza. Be sure that whether the experts pick this one right or wrong, Gonzalez will be underestimated no more.

Photo by Morris Goen

• • • •

Alejandro Gonzalez



After the stoppage, Nunez collapsed in his corner

San Sor Ploenchit KO 11 Danny Nunez

Rayong, Thailand: Unbeaten Thai speedster Ploenchit outjabbed game and ferocious Dominican Nunez, survived a knockdown, traded effectively in the later rounds, and halted the fading challenger. It was the 23-year-old Ploenchit's fourth defense.

Nunez, 112, was successful with his early attacks, but Ploenchit, 112, kept his cool and responded with jabs and one-twos. The challenger's best round was the fifth, when he waded in and dropped the Thai with a left uppercut to the chin. Referee Silvestre Abainza (Philippines) incorrectly ruled a slip.

Beginning in the sixth, Ploenchit found his rhythm and established his desired distance. Nunez, the Latin American champion, turned negative in the seventh, circling the ring without firing any strong punches. Ploenchit took advantage, unleashing a consistent attack that weakened the Dominican. From that point on, the 25-year-old Nunez seemed content to last the distance.

In the 11th, the fast-handed Ploenchit, 21-0 (4), caught Nunez, 25-3 (19), with three left-right combinations and the exhausted challenger knelt down. He rose at the count of eight, but Abainza called a well-received halt.

After 10 rounds, the shaven-skulled Ploenchit was ahead on all three cards, with Gonzalo Riveras (Venezuela) and Samuel Conde (Puerto Rico) both scoring 98-93 and Wan Soo Yuh (South Korea) 98-92.

After the stoppage, Nunez collapsed in his corner and was rushed to Bamrungrad Hospital in Bangkok. He was diagnosed as having sustained a subdural hematoma. Fortunately, there was no serious damage, and he returned home five days after the fight.

Promoter: Songchai Ratanasuban

(12-25-94)

Joe Koizumi

Harold Grey W 12 Vincenco Belcastro

Cagliari, Italy: Unbeaten Colombian Grey, 115, survived a sixth-round knockdown and a resolute challenge by former European bantamweight champion Belcastro, 115, Italy, to retain the IBF junior bantamweight title by split decision at the Sports Palace. It was his first defense.

Tall and rangy, Grey utilized his natural advantages to good effect when boxing from a comfortable distance, but the steel-chinned Italian veteran presented problems when managing to bull his way forward and connect with sweeping hooks. Physically stronger, Belcastro, 29-8-3 (4), proved most successful when roughing it up during the middle rounds. But the solid jab and greater technical ability of Grey, 18-0 (15), accounted for the more productive work.

Thrusting out a crisp jab, Grey started well. He had the first three rounds lodged in the bank when a clash of heads in round four produced cuts on the bridge of the Italian's nose and above his right eye. However, the injuries roused the challenger into action, and he seized the initiative to capture the remainder of the round.

The sudden shift in momentum became more obvious as round five progressed, especially when a thumping right crashed into the side of Grey's head. He managed to fall into a clinch but was clearly hurt. A right in the next round sent him down, giving the partisan crowd reason to sense an upset.

Regaining his composure, Grey sensibly began to again exercise his jab. The challenger continued to press forward, firing lefts and rights, but the lack of a knockout punch deprived him of fully exploiting the situation. The late rounds were closely fought, with Grey carefully avoiding Belcastro's crude swings and boxing his way to the final bell.

Roque Garcia (Colombia) and Kason Cheeks (USA) scored for Grey by 115-113 and 115-112, respectively. Rich Villani (Italy) had Belcastro in front by 116-113.

(12-17-94)

Brian Doogan

Wilfredo Vasquez W 12 Orlando Canizales

San Antonio, Texas: Orlando Canizales finds himself in an unfamiliar position: For the first time in 6½ years, he's not wearing a championship belt.

Technically, Canizales vacated the IBF bantamweight title in December, but only because he was preparing for the first big title fight of 1995, his challenge of WBA junior featherweight champion Vasquez at the Freeman Coliseum. Canizales, 122, Laredo, Texas, was a slight favorite to end the reign of Vasquez, 122, Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, after eight successful defenses. But the judges were apparently unimpressed with the challenger's reputation. Vasquez dominated early, then held on late and kept the crown by split decision.

A still-sparkling 38-2-1 (28) with 1 no-contest, the 29-year-old Canizales isn't ready to call it a career. "No, not really," he said quickly

when asked a few days after losing to Vasquez whether he was considering retirement. "I thought I won. I wanted to win that title, and that's still my goal. I'm going to take some time off, and then if a rematch comes, I'll take it."

The 33-year-old Vasquez, 42-6-3 (32), continued to strengthen his reputation as a road warrior who will do whatever it takes to win. "In nine defenses, this is the closest to home I've fought," he pointed out.

It was a tactical battle from the start, which was the last thing the crowd wanted to see after the excitement of the Alejandro Gonzalez-Kevin Kelley title fight that preceded the main event. Vasquez was marked under his left eye in the first round, but his cornermen never let the swelling become a factor. The defending champion, who possessed a four-inch reach advantage, danced and jabbed through most of the early rounds, scoring and frustrating a too-patient Canizales.

The Texan picked up the pace in the sixth, a round in which he suffered a nick on his left eyebrow. The seventh and eighth were the best rounds of the fight, filled with exchanges that were often punctuated by Canizales lefts to the head. But the challenger was never able to hurt Vasquez, and his attack slackened in the last two rounds. Perhaps he had been weakened by his two attempts to make weight.

According to HBO statistics, Vasquez landed 324 punches to Canizales' 250.

"I played with him at the end," said Vasquez. "I wanted to box because we'd already won. He wanted to fight toe-to-toe. Canizales is a very hard hitter and very brave. I wanted to win by knockout, but he can take a punch ... I'd have no problem about having a rematch."

Canizales was equally certain he deserved the decision, but he admitted his strategy may have been flawed. "I started kind of slow, I don't know why; the next time I'll be more aggressive," he said. I was a little bit surprised [by Vasquez' style]. I thought he'd walk in, but he kinda waited. That threw me off my game plan. He was waiting and waiting for me, and he counterpunched a lot. He hurt me once or twice, but I recovered quickly.

"Yeah, I was worried about the judges. My corner told me going into the ninth that I needed all the rounds. I thought I won them. But I guess I didn't do enough for the Panamanian and Puerto Rican judges."

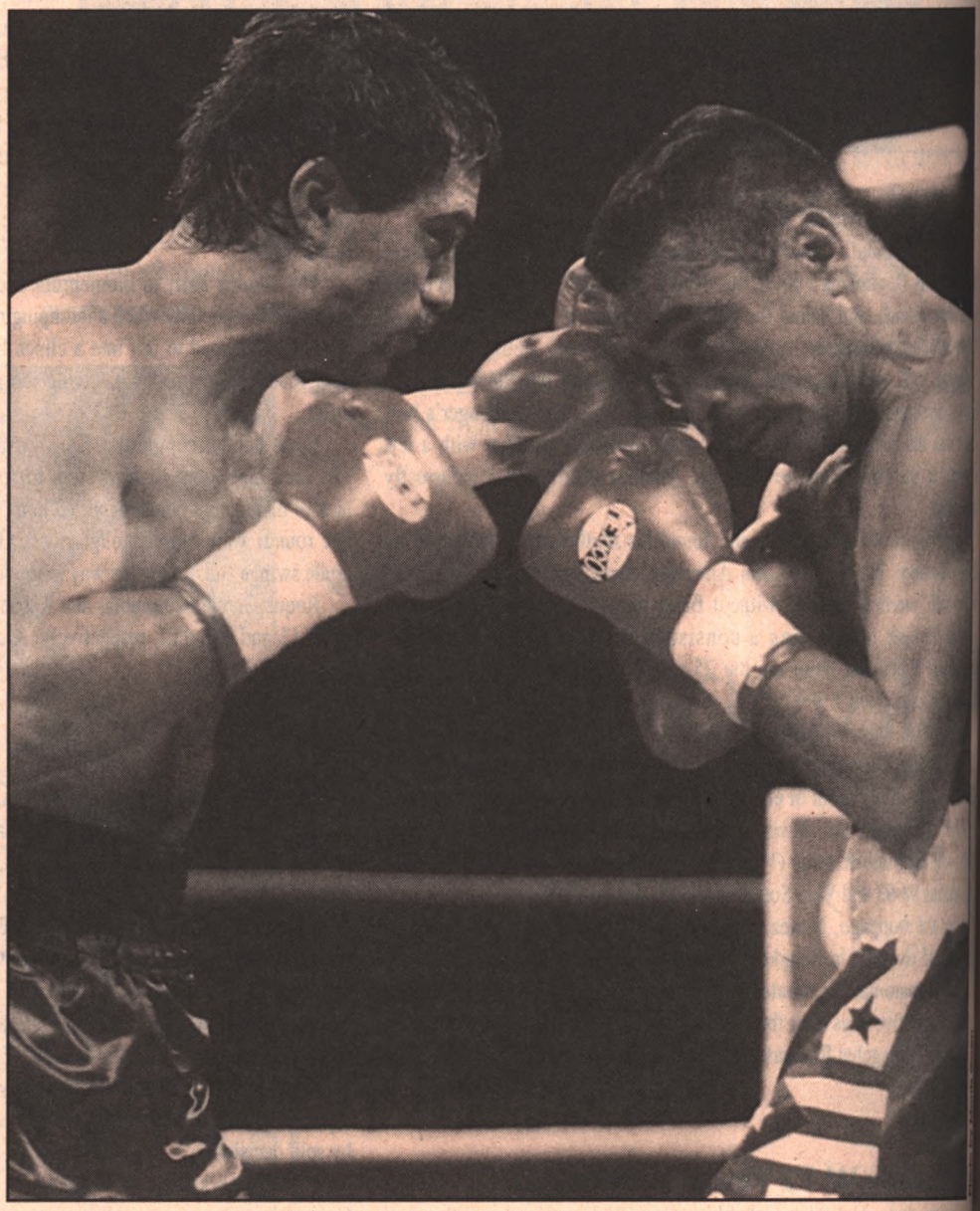
Roberto Ramirez (Puerto Rico) and Francisco Burac (Panama) scored for Vasquez by 115-113 and 116-115, respectively. Jack Woodruff (USA) had Canizales in front by 117-113. It was a tough bout to score, with the judges agreeing on only three rounds. THE RING saw Canizales the winner by 115-113.

Given the mix of styles, a rematch isn't particularly appealing. Vasquez talks of either chasing countryman Wilfredo Gomez' division record of 17 successful defenses or moving up to challenge WBA featherweight champion Eloy Rojas. A win over Rojas would allow Vasquez to join Gomez and Wilfred Benitez as the only Puerto Ricans to win world titles at three weights. He would also become the first fighter to win WBA crowns in three divisions. (Vasquez reigned as WBA bantamweight titlist from 1987 to 1988.)

Canizales will remain at 122 pounds and either seek a rematch with Vasquez or try for IBF champion Vuyani Bungu. In the meantime, the fighter who had been boxing's longest-reigning titlist will have to get reaccustomed to living without a championship belt.

(1-7-95)

Bruce Williams ■



Canizales and Vasquez featured measured aggression

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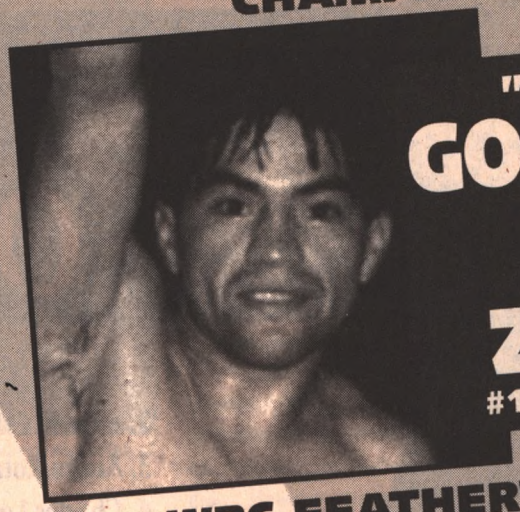

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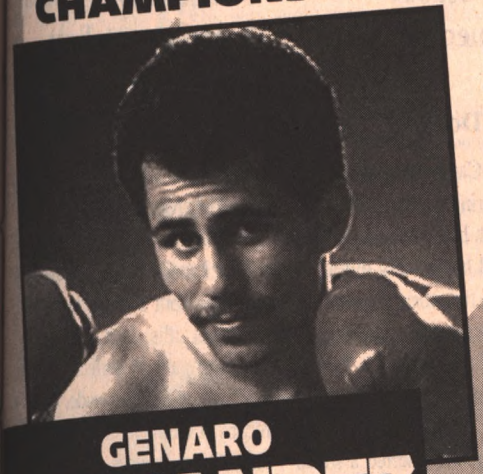

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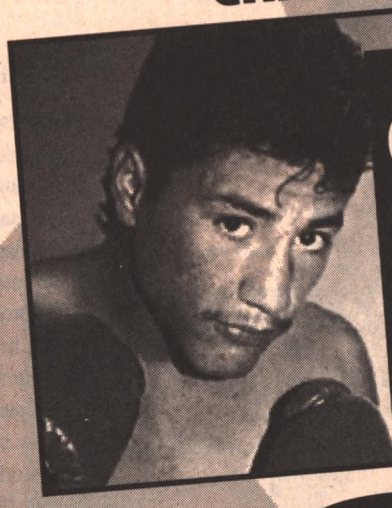

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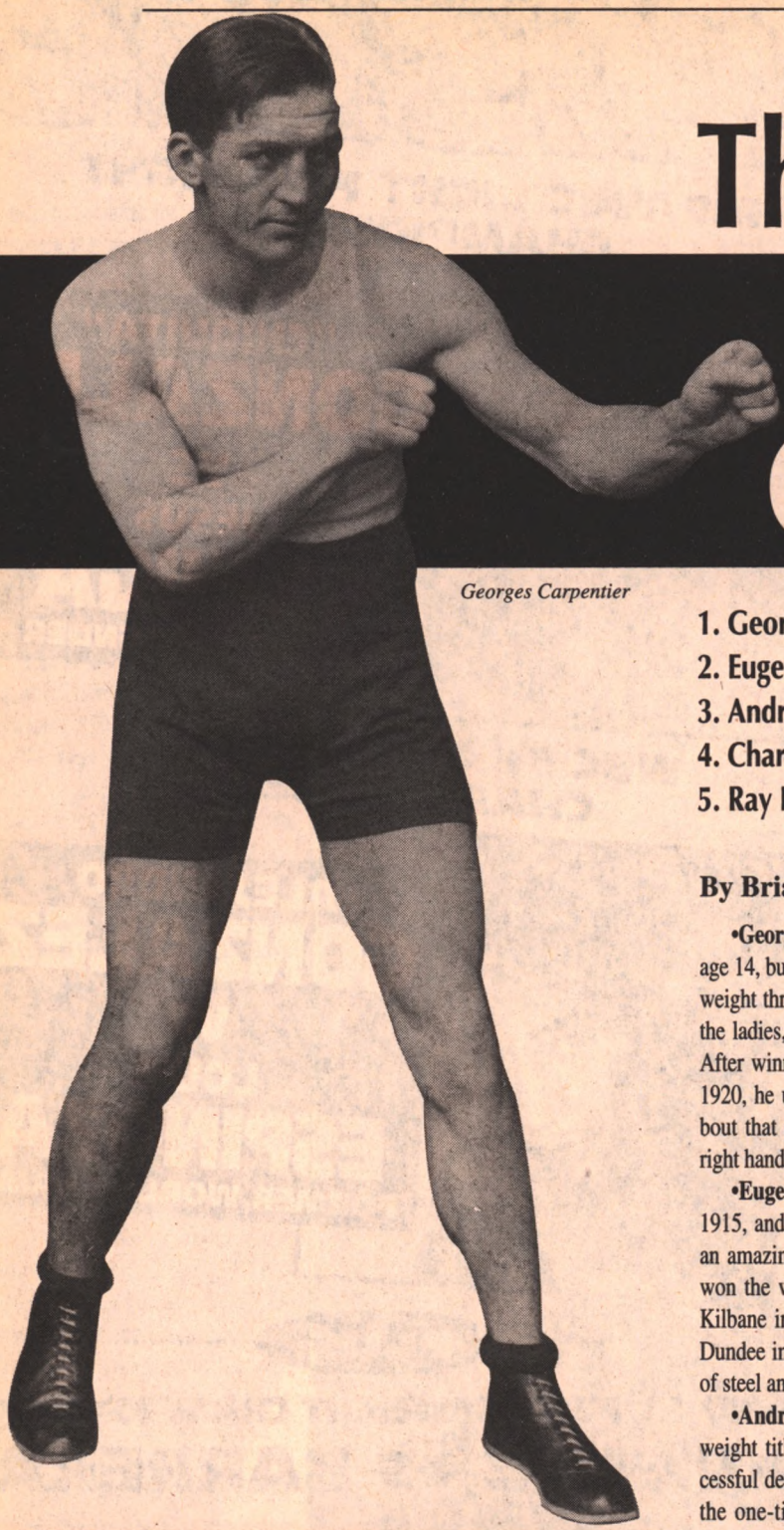


Georges Carpentier

1. Georges Carpentier
2. Eugene Criqui
3. Andre Routis
4. Charles Ledoux
5. Ray Famechon
6. Emile Pladner
7. Johnny Famechon
8. Marcel Thil
9. Valentin Angelmann
10. Maurice Holtzer

By Brian Doogan

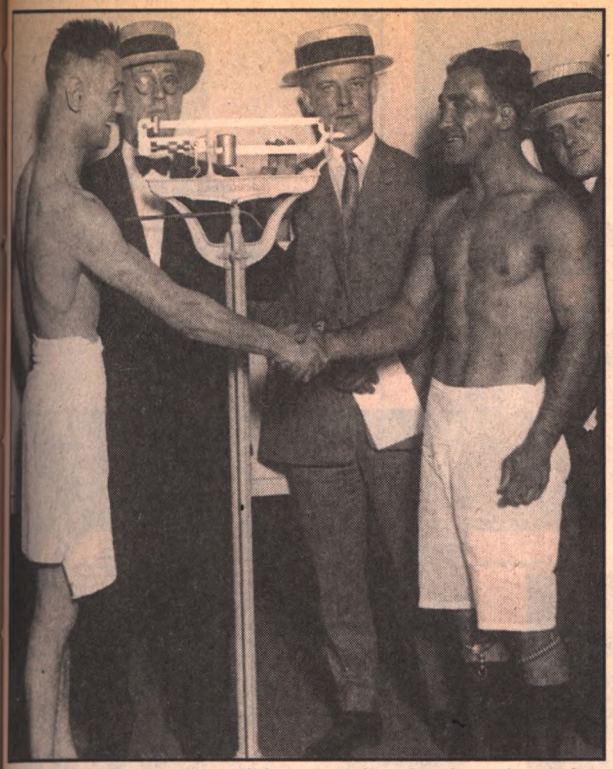
•**Georges Carpentier** weighed just 100 pounds when he turned pro at age 14, but during a remarkable career annexed European titles from welterweight through heavyweight. Handsome "Orchid Man" was a favorite with the ladies, and his bravery during World War I made him a national hero. After winning the world light heavyweight title from Battling Levinsky in 1920, he unsuccessfully challenged heavyweight titlist Jack Dempsey in a bout that produced boxing's first million-dollar gate. A stylist with a big right hand, he dominated European boxing for more than a decade.

•**Eugene Criqui** had his jaw shattered by a German sniper's bullet in 1915, and surgeons inserted a sheep's rib and metal plates in its place. In an amazing comeback, Criqui, who had turned pro in 1910, subsequently won the world featherweight title by knocking out long-reigning Johnny Kilbane in 1923. Kept the crown less than two months, losing to Johnny Dundee in his first defense. "The Man With The Iron Jaw" possessed fists of steel and scored 54 kayos in an 18-year career.

•**Andre Routis** performed a minor miracle by lifting the world featherweight title from the legendary Tony Canzoneri in 1928. Made one successful defense before losing to Bat Battalino. Before shocking Canzoneri, the one-time car mechanic outpointed Ledoux to win the French bantamweight title. A competent boxer-puncher, he retired at age 29 after developing eye problems.

•**Charles Ledoux** joined Carpentier and Criqui to comprise "The Three Musketeers" of French boxing. A dynamic powerpuncher and skilled boxer, he ended the career of "Peerless" Jim Driscoll in 1919, and defeated seven British champions. Laid claim to the world bantamweight crown in 1912 by stopping Digger Stanley, but was beaten by Kid Williams one year

Who was the best British fighter of all-time? The best Mexican? The best Japanese? The debate will rage forever. In an attempt to fuel the fire, or at least offer some perspective, THE RING has asked several of its correspondents to compile their personal top-10 lists.



World champion Eugene Criqui (left) greets Johnny Dundee at the weigh-in before their featherweight title bout in 1923. Dundee won by decision.

later. Stopped Criqui in 1914, then, eight years later, suffered a first-round kayo loss to his countryman. Retired shortly after unsuccessful challenge of 118-pound champion Abe Goldstein in 1924.

•**Ray Famechon** was an excellent boxer whose career coincided with the reign of masterly featherweight champion Willie Pep. Youngest and easily most successful of three boxing brothers, he collected the French featherweight crown in 1947, and added the European title one year later. Tremendous effort against Pep in 1950 ended in a gallant points defeat, though he remained European champion until 1955. Lost only a dozen of 113 pro bouts.

•**Emile "Spider" Pladner** held the International Boxing Union and NBA flyweight titles, compensating for his lack of height—he stood 5'2¼"—with a relentless, two-fisted assault. Just 13 months after turning pro in 1926, he won the French title. Following two defeats to Johnny Hill, he knocked out the Scot and then, in 1929, starched Frankie Genaro in one round to secure world honors. Seven weeks later, he forfeited the title to Genaro on a foul, then moved up and seized the national bantamweight title.

•**Johnny Famechon** realized the dream that had eluded his uncle Ray by outpointing capable Cuban Jose Legra to win the vacant WBC featherweight title in 1969. Based in Australia, he was a talented boxer with a first-rate jab. Retained the title twice, winning a dubious decision vs. Japanese legend Fighting Harada and then stopping the former flyweight and bantamweight titlist in the return, Retired the day after losing the belt to Vicente Saldivar in 1970.

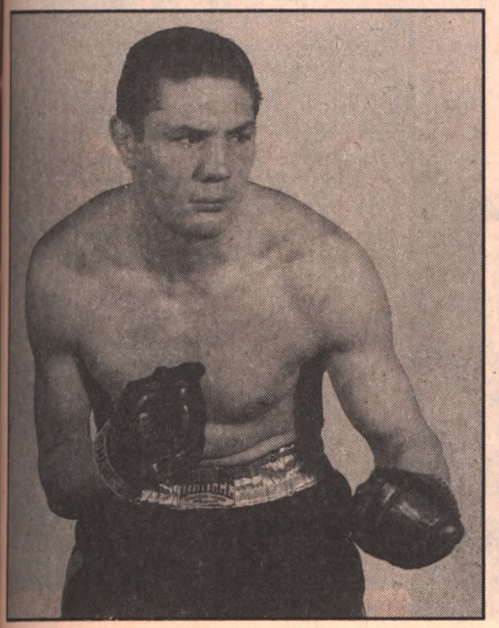
•**Marcel Thil** gained a reputation for crying "foul!" after his world middleweight title-winning effort and two successive defenses culminated in his opponents' disqualifications. Questionable antics aside, Thil proved a resilient fighter and solid bodypuncher, and good enough to alter an indifferent career by lifting the French and European 160-pound titles. In 1932, became NBA champion after Gorilla Jones was DQ'd for punching low. Nine defenses followed before a cut eye resulted in a defeat to Fred Apostoli on the Tournament of Champions card in 1937.

•**Valentin Angelmann** reigned as International Boxing Union flyweight champion, but never received widespread recognition because the rival champion was the redoubtable Benny Lynch. Nonetheless, he was a tough and spirited fighter who held both Jackie Brown and Jackie Paterson to draws. However, lost to Lynch, Frankie Genaro, and Peter Kane. Won both the national flyweight and bantamweight titles.

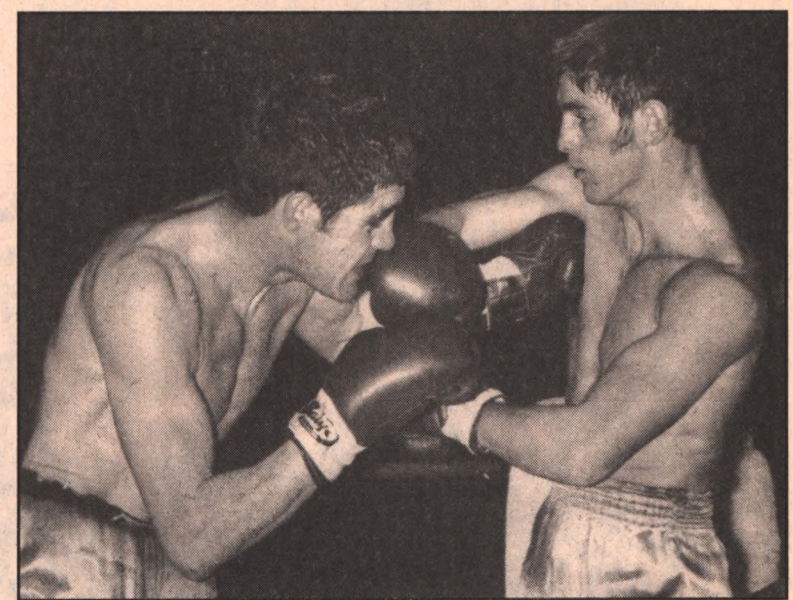
•**Maurice Holtzer** lacked genuine power, but a firm resolve and sound boxing skills resulted in only five stoppage defeats in 148 career bouts. Following a defeat to Marcel Cerdan's brother Vincent, he decided to campaign in America. Upon returning to France, he won the national and European featherweight titles. Retired just prior to World War II.

Note: World champions Marcel Cerdan, Robert Cohen, and Alphonse Halimi, all of whom enjoyed considerable success and popularity inside French rings, were not included because they were born outside the country. ■

Brian Doogan is* THE RING'S *correspondent for Europe.



Ray Famechon



World featherweight champion Johnny Famechon (right) battles Jimmy Anderson in their 1969 non-title bout in London. Famechon won on points.

CAMERA CLICKS

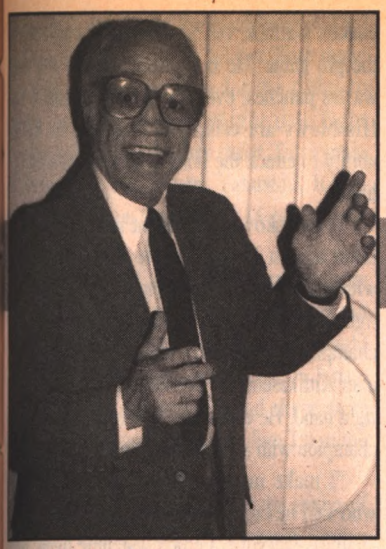
How many great fights did this trio of former heavyweight champions provide us with? From left: Larry Holmes, Muhammad Ali, and Ken Norton.

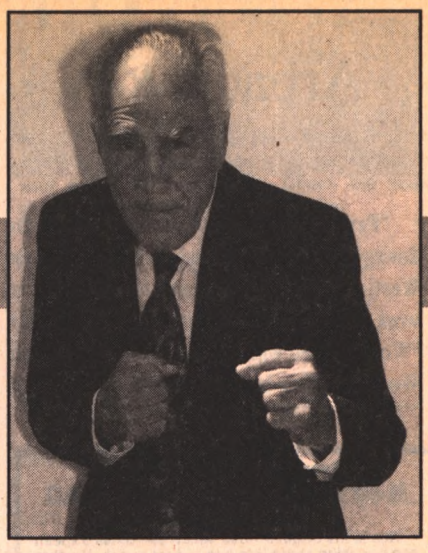
Photo by Tom Hogan

Among the recent visitors to the International Boxing Hall of Fame was former lightweight champion Ray Mancini. Don't worry, no more comebacks for "Boom Boom." He's now a full-time actor.

Photo by Jay Lash

*WBC heavyweight champion Oliver McCall was recently presented with a token of his promoter's appreciation. For Don King's newly crowned champs, such a gift has become all but **automatic**.*



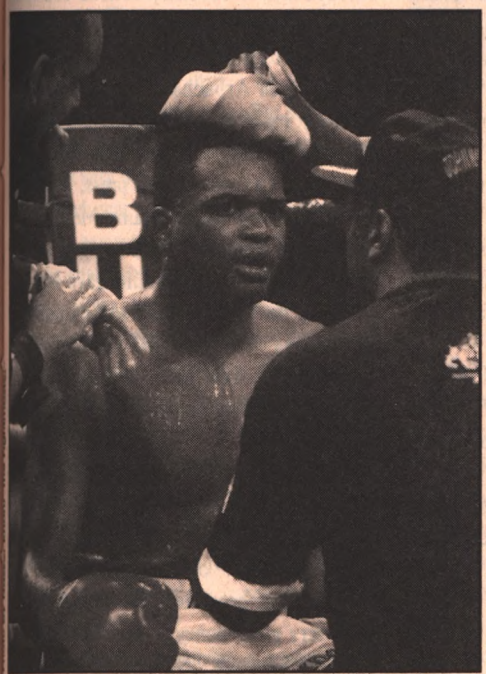


Photos by Abe Hochheiser

Former world champions recently spotted in Los Angeles: (from left) Paddy DeMarco, Jimmy McLarnin, and Juan Zurita.

No, this isn't the opponent in Evander Holyfield's comeback fight. It's Benny Hinn, the faith-healer who, according to the former champion, has helped save his career.

NOSTALGIA CORNER



Was Larry Donald's excuse "not tonight, I have a headache"? The previously unbeaten heavyweight was a reluctant warrior in his points loss to Riddick Bowe.

*No, Carlos Ortiz didn't have a shoe fetish. During the former lightweight great's title reign, his wife Norma developed a hobby of decorating shoes with rhinestones. And how are you spending **your** Saturday nights?*

Arbachakov

(Continued from page 39)

"Perestroika [the policy that opened the Soviet Union politically and economically to the West] made a big difference in our ability to work with Yuri and Nazarov," said Kanehira. "We negotiated with the Moscow Sports Bureau. We chose five boxers, including Yuri and Nazarov. The other three are out of boxing now."

Norm Kaplan, the California-based attorney who manages heavyweight Alex Garcia, forged a relationship with the Kanehira family in 1976, when he represented WBA junior flyweight champion Juan Guzman during negotiations for a title defense against Gushiken. He has since handled much of the Kanehira boxing business outside of Japan, negotiating contracts, TV rights, and purse bids. He also negotiated Olzubek's fights against Thobela and Joey Gamache.

"They went to Russia and recruited these fighters the same way an American manager might go to Mexico," said Kaplan. "They moved them and they've supported them financially. They take good care of their fighters. They do everything the right way. They practice a team or franchise concept."

The Russian fighters, as well as Alexandre and other members of the Kyoei stable, are housed in dormitories that are equipped with a gym, a TV room, a cook, and guest rooms for sparring partners. After living exclusively in Japan for three years, Olzubek now returns home to Kant, Russia, between fights. Arbachakov remains in Tokyo.

The star of the Kyoei team is the 28-year-old Arbachakov. In fact, with the exception of two-time former WBC bantamweight champion Joichiro Tatsuyoshi, he may be the biggest fistic star in Japan. Given his nationality, that's quite a distinction.

"Yuri is very popular in Japan because he is a sensational fighter," said Kanehira. "Yuri makes for very good fights."

Kanehira said Olzubek, also 28, is not as popular as his compatriot because the lightweight was crowned in South Africa, and not Japan. Arbachakov captured the flyweight title from an Asian fighter, Thailand's Kittikasem, in a bout that took place in Japan. Moreover, in his two title fights against Thobela, Olzubek, normally a dangerous puncher, failed to generate excitement. Arbachakov, on the other hand, has been consistently entertaining.

"He hits like a mule's kick," said referee Richard Steele, who has officiated two of Arbachakov's title fights. "He's very busy, very determined. I liken him to a little Mike Tyson."

Arbachakov, who began boxing at age 13 and won a world amateur title in 1989, turned pro in 1990 and, in just his eighth pro fight, won the Japanese flyweight crown by stopping Takahiro Mizuno in the first round. In his 13th fight, he stopped Kittakasem.

There are still traces of the traditional stand-up, dart-in-and-out amateur style in Arbachakov's attack, but he is clearly comfortable in the pro game. He is a patient stalker who rarely wastes punches, even when his opponent is hurt. His blows are crisp and fast, and he has the ability to attack the body with long, straight right hands.

Arbachakov was brilliant in his title-winning effort against Kittikasem. He demonstrated power with both hands by dropping the champion with a right hand and later a left hook. He also showed a champion's resolve by felling the Thai moments after Kittikasem had floored him with a spectacular right hand. He ended the fight by knocking out the champion with a devastating single right hand.

"I make my own style," said Arbachakov, who said he enjoys watching Julio Cesar Chavez. "I study everyone. I enjoy watching fights, but in Japan we don't get to see many other fighters."

Kaplan agreed that style is what separates Arbachakov from the heavy-handed Olzubek, then intimated there is another difference unrelated to boxing. "Yuri is explosive; the Japanese like that," he said. "He's more flamboyant. He's an exciting personality. He's exciting to watch. Any minute he can take you out. Nazarov is very good. He's methodical. He can wear you down. But he doesn't have that flair that Yuri has. Yuri also has Asian features, so they can identify with him more."

(Arbachakov, who was raised in Kemerova, a small village near Siberia, insists he does not come from Asian ancestry.)

Arbachakov's flair, much like the appeal of Tatsuyoshi, or recently retired champions Khaosai Galaxy and Myung Woo Yuh, may never be witnessed in an American ring. Asian titlists, or in Arbachakov's case, a Russian champion based in a Far-Eastern country, rarely leave the friendly confines of home to defend their titles. (As we went to press, Arbachakov was scheduled to defend against Mexico's Oscar Arciniega in Japan.) Kittikasem, a gutsy and busy fighter who probably would have been very popular in the West, ventured to the United States in 1990 as reigning IBF junior flyweight champion. He went home without a belt after Michael Carbajal knocked him out in seven rounds.

But it's not fear of American fighters or unfair decisions that keep Asian champions rooted in their own soil. It's money.

"In Thailand or Korea or other Asian countries, the promoters who make the fights make very good money in their own countries," explained Kanehira. "No other countries pay the same amount of money."

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Publisher's Weekly

The Boxer's Workout clearly and systematically presents all the elements of a sound boxer's workout program, with unprecedented step-by-step photo-illustrations of the essential moves and punches. It was written by writer-boxer Peter DePasquale, with veteran coaches Al Gavin and Bob Jackson of New York's Gramercy Boxing Gym.

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scale similar to the United States or Europe. That was clearly illustrated by the $3.4-million purse bid won by Kioyogi Matsuda for the rights to promote the WBC bantamweight title fight between comebacking former titlist Tatsuyoshi and interim champion Yasuei Yakushiji. It was the most money ever bid for a 118-pound title fight.

"Ten people would come to see that fight here in America," said Kaplan, who represented Matsuda at the purse bid. "Tickets for that fight were sold out the day they went on sale in Japan. The place held 10,000 people, and there were 13,000 there. And it was carried on live TV in the city of the fight."

The bout was held in Nagoya, the home of Tatsuyoshi. Yakushiji hails from nearby Osaka. Kaplan likened that to USC playing UCLA for the national championship of college football. Steele, who officiated the fight (won by Yakushiji on a close decision), called it "a wonderful fight. Not only was there not a seat in the house, there was no standing-room. It was one of the best fights I've worked in a long time."

Despite the money available at home, Kanehira may be altering his position about fighting abroad. Even if it pertains only to Olzubek.

"I have an interest to have them fight in New York," he said. "There are many Russians living in New York. But we have offers to fight all over the United States. We also have offers from China, South Africa, Russia, and Indonesia."

Arbachakov's only fight outside of Japan was his rematch with Kittikasem, which took place in Thailand. The Russian won by ninth-round TKO.

"It was very, very hot," he recalled. "Kittikasem was easier this time. But we fought outside. It was the first time I fought outside, and I didn't like it very much."

As Olzubek was preparing for his December 1994 defense against Joey Gamache in Portland, Maine (the champion agreed to defend on the road only after being promised a hefty guarantee), he and Arbachakov trained for a week at Gleason's Gym in Brooklyn. The fighters, Kanehira, Alexandre, and Kanehira's assistant, Shigeyuki Otake, stayed in Manhattan. They visited the Empire State Building, did roadwork in Central Park, and visited Madison Square Garden, though unaware the building was once the mecca of the sport. The highlight of their trip was visiting with Kobozev, a friend and former amateur teammate.

Olzubek, who was scheduled to represent the Soviet Union at the 1988 Olympics but was shelved by an appendix operation, hopes to fight all over the world. He won the title and defended it in South Africa, and scored an impressive second-round knockout of Gamache in Maine. He fought in the United States as an amateur three times and would like to continue fighting here because he feels the best fighters in the world are in America.

Both fighters speak limited English but expressed similar thoughts about their recent visit.

"I like America; everything is nice," said Olzubek, smiling. "Everything is big."

Arbachakov, who is quiet and almost sullen, especially when compared to Olzubek, was in the United States for just the second time. In 1993, he had attended the WBC convention in Las Vegas.

"I liked New York," said the flyweight champion. "We went to a big tower and watched all of New York. It was very interesting. Las Vegas has too much gambling. I spend one week there and no more. It's very tiring."

Even though Kaplan feels Arbachakov would be as popular in the USA as any lighter-weight fighter, the Russian was non-committal. "Maybe someday," he said when asked about fighting here. "Maybe against Michael Carbajal. Maybe against anyone."

Anyone would suffice. ■

Robert Cassidy is a frequent contributor to THE RING.

Gonzalez-Kelley

(Continued from page 42)

landed solid shots of his own, Gonzalez remained unfazed.

It was becoming apparent The Flushing Flash had made a tactical error. Best suited to focus on defense and counterpunching, he began the fight willing to slug it out with Gonzalez. And the challenger was enjoying every minute of it.

Much like fellow southpaw Pernell Whitaker, Kelley has the tools to outbox many an opponent. But against Gonzalez, he was bent on proving his mettle. Between the fourth and fifth rounds, he told Borgia, "I feel like I'm in a war," and he didn't sound disappointed. But the more Kelley looked like a beaten fighter, the more inspired Gonzalez became.

Coming into the fight, Gonzalez felt he had been unduly kept away from the position of mandatory challenger. He felt he was ready for a

(Continued on page 59)

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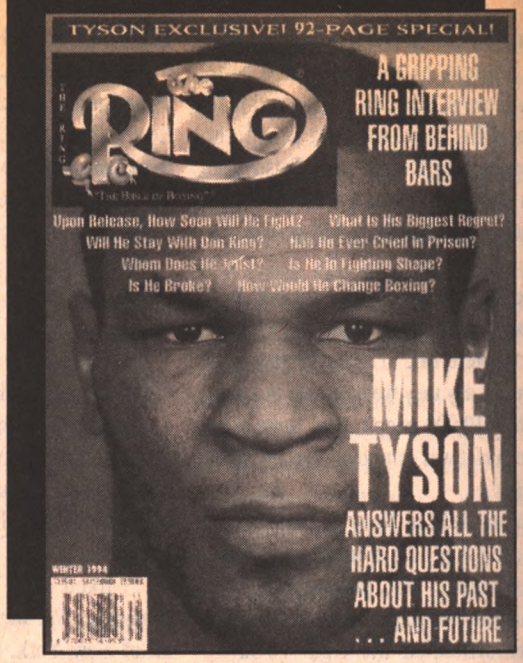

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Gonzalez-Kelley

(Continued from page 57)

title shot three years ago, after disposing of one-time contender Harold Rhodes in eight rounds. In order to get to Kelley, the Mexican had to fight an eliminator last August with countryman and top-ranked contender Cesar Soto. Gonzalez won that fight by split decision. It was a tough battle, but one that helped him prove to himself he had the heart of a champion.

Perhaps it was the confidence he had secured from beating Soto that made Gonzalez fearless against Kelley. Whatever the source, it was now Kelley's problem. In the fifth, the champion upped his attack, but it was to no avail as Gonzalez displayed his defensive skills. It was after some of Kelley's windmill misses that Gonzalez began to take advantage. As often as Kelley left himself off-balance, the round turned into target practice for Gonzalez. According to CompuBox, Gonzalez threw 106 punches in the round, the majority of which found their mark.

"We talked the talk, kid, now we walk the walk," Borgia told Kelley in the corner.

In the sixth, Kelley was happy to be able to stand up, much less walk. A minute into the round, Gonzalez landed a combination, ending with a right to the head that staggered Kelley and, in a delayed reaction, sent him to the blue canvas. Kelley, though, is a proud and gallant fighter. Somehow finding some sort of energy boost within himself, he fought back and won the remainder of the round. However, there was a toll: He went back to his corner with his right eye badly swollen.

After a seventh round in which both fighters seemed content on finding their bearings, the eighth provided enough action to be considered the first candidate for Round of the Year. Gonzalez started quickly and backed Kelley against the ropes. All Kelley could do against the charging challenger was cover up as Gonzalez unleashed a merciless assault with both hands. The Gonzalez fans stood in unison and cheered wildly upon realizing the champion was near the end of his reign—and their new hero was within seconds of beginning a new one.

Referee Lawrence Cole (USA) looked closely as Kelley relied on the ropes to remain upright.

(Continued on page 61)

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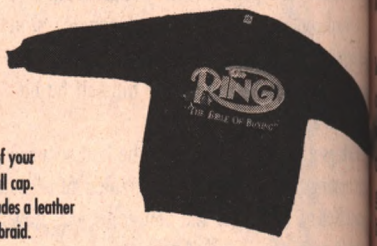

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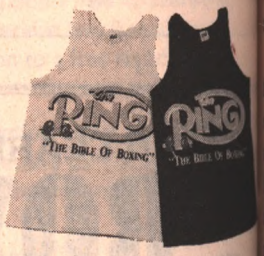

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Gonzalez-Kelley

(Continued from page 59)

but the New Yorker somehow withstood the storm, then fought back with a vengeance. He suddenly became the attacker, with Gonzalez looking every bit his young age.

As Gonzalez backed away, Kelley landed a left to the chin that sent the Mexican to the seat of his trunks in Kelley's wet corner. The fans, who just seconds before had been cheering for the finish of Kelley, now cheered for what was a great turnaround. Regardless of who they may have favored at the start of the bout, they were now cheering the courage of both fighters.

Gonzalez got up and protected himself for the rest of the round.

"You're back, kid," was the greeting Kelley received in his corner.

Kelley continued to be the aggressor in the ninth, and Gonzalez couldn't land. In the 10th, Kelley began by dancing around, content on bringing out a quick jab. For the first time, the fans jeered, as the pace of the fight had slowed to a crawl.

Almost on cue, Gonzalez, 35-2 (25), again found his range and delivered a crunching straight right that rocked Kelley, 41-1 (29), against the ropes. The fans were again on their feet as Gonzalez rained punches. Cole looked on, about ready to put a halt to the beating when a mouthpiece flew out amid the swinging hands of the challenger. After waiting for a pause in the action, the referee called time just as the bell sounded ending the round. Initially believing the bout had been stopped, the fans showed their dismay by throwing cups toward the ring.

Only a few seconds later, that dismay turned to satisfaction and celebration when Buffer announced Kelley could no longer continue. In a major upset, the streetfighter from Guadalajara had beaten the pearl of the lower weights.

After 10 rounds, Gonzalez led on all three cards. Jo Jo Guerra (Mexico) scored 97-91, Adrian Morgan (Wales) 95-93, and Gale Van Hoy (USA) 95-92.

"Viva, viva, viva Mexico!" proclaimed a tearful Gonzalez while riding atop his handlers' shoulders. "It's an honor bringing back the title that belonged to Mexico for so many years. I thank God I'm bringing it back."

We're sure all of Mexico will toast to that. ■

Richard Martinez is a boxing columnist for the San Antonio Express-News.

New Faces

(Continued from page 16)

hands. But when Anis fired them, the trialhorse simply bent further, then tied him up. Calm and methodical to an almost excruciating point, Anis pounded Faulkner with a stiff jab and tried to mix in occasional powerpunches. After 10 frustrating rounds, it was a shutout on all three cards, but Anis would undoubtedly have won more fans by dispatching his passive opponent earlier.

"If people are ready to think Ray's slipping, great!" said Anis' manager, Jim Fennell. "We'll be ready for anyone. It's hard to fight a guy who only wants to survive and who's not interested in winning. This was a very awkward opponent, and Ray's concise punching got the win."

"My last performance was very bad," Anis admitted a couple of weeks after the Faulkner fight. "Coming in on one week's notice, I was a little overweight. I'm training hard now all the time because the heavyweight division is wide open and I can't afford not to be in the best shape. I can't be performing like that again. I could've seriously hurt my career chances if people judge me on that fight."

A lot of people wouldn't be dissatisfied with a shutout win, but Anis has set some high standards in his brief boxing career. Born in Haiti, he came to the United States at the age of six. Boxing observers usually remark about how fundamentally sound Anis is in the ring. His all-around athleticism makes most trainers drool.

In high school, Anis played soccer and was a member of the swimming team. After graduation, he decided to utilize his size and become a defensive end for the semi-pro Long Island Tomahawks football team. Only a chance conversation with a pharmacist turned the 6'4" Anis toward boxing.

"I was working as a delivery person for a film company," Anis recalled, "and this pharmacist I used to talk to kept saying, 'You're a big guy; give it a try.' I had always been a boxing fan, but I didn't know if I had what it takes. So I started boxing at age 20 and was an amateur for five years."

Anis enjoyed an amateur career many boxers would dream about. In 1990, he was the New York State Golden Gloves and Empire State Games heavyweight champion. Under the tutelage of John Mondello, he compiled an

(Continued on page 62)

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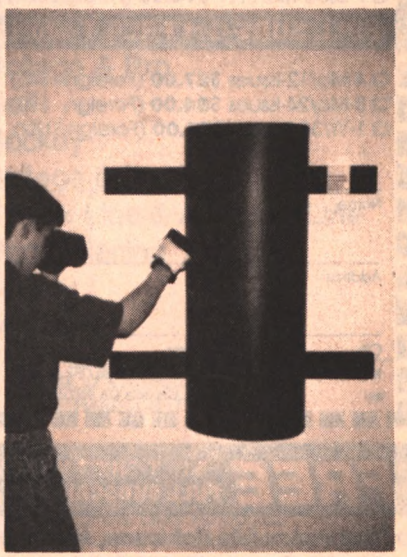

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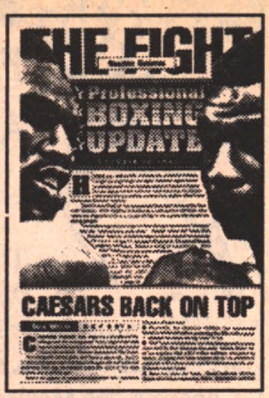

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New Faces

(Continued from page 61)

overall record of 36-4 (30). Mondello is still part of the Anis camp, serving as a sort of trainer emeritus and advising Fennell and current trainer Eddie Quinn.

According to Mondello, Anis displays much more stamina and technique as a professional than he did as an amateur. "He trains much harder now and boxes," Mondello said. "When I had him, he didn't do that. He just pounded guys out."

Anis hasn't exactly been a shrinking violet as a pro; he rung up eight knockouts in his first dozen wins. But in February 1994, lightly regarded .500 heavyweight William Morris simply outworked him in a Las Vegas eight-rounder. "Ray just didn't throw enough punches," Fennell said at the time, and he subsequently hauled his big slugger down to Florida for some intense training. Within two months, the renewed dedication paid dividends, as Anis was given a shot against 1984 Olympic gold medalist and former contender Tyrell Biggs in Tokyo. In April 1994, the new and improved Anis overwhelmed Biggs in three rounds. His ascent has since continued.

In May 1994, Anis defeated veteran Mike Evans over the 10-round distance, and in late-July he iced Chris Cole. In October, Anis opened one of Kushner's Heavyweight Explosion cards in Boston, where he systematically wore down 300-pound Craig Payne en route to a 10th-round TKO. Sam Hampton fell in two frames in December.

At the start of 1995, there was talk of Anis being Michael Moorer's first foe on his comeback trail, possibly on HBO. But according to Fennell, the Moorer camp rejected the once-beaten puncher. Frustrated by the political aspects of the heavyweight circus, Fennell had lined up a February match with Wes Turner at the Blue Horizon in Philadelphia, but then jumped at the Warwick bout to keep his man busy. "We'll just keep winning and waiting," said the manager, who also handles fringe contender Alex Stewart. "I have never turned down an opponent for Ray, and if the phone rang right now with an offer to fight Moorer or Evander Holyfield, we'd take it and we'll fight."

That day in Warwick, Anis wasn't exactly amused by his lackluster victory, but he did find a silver lining: "After I looked so bad, maybe someone will give me a shot now."

Anis' level-headed, patient approach to his career is indicative of his maturity. It was out-of-the-ring facets of the fighter that drew Fennell to him.

"I was offered an opportunity to handle Ray and I've been very grateful to get involved," he said. "He has certain qualities of character that are exceptional in this sport. Ray is simply a very decent guy and a gentleman in every way. He's as clean as wax, and very responsive to training and coaching. And of course technically he has a tremendous left jab and excellent balance, and he doesn't take punishment because his defense is so good. I think one big improvement he's had as a pro is that he doesn't reach anymore; he throws short punches. He's worked himself out of that.

"I think it's important to realize we are a team. John Mondello developed Ray from a raw amateur to a champion. Eddie Quinn has refined that talent in the pro ranks. And I've tried to make the right moves as he progressed. The three of us work as a team behind Ray."

Aside from a knuckle injury on his right hand that was corrected by surgery in 1991, Anis has had no physical problems in the ring—except getting people in the ring with him. To that end, an interested spectator at the Faulkner fight was Philadelphia promoter Russell Peltz, who has gotten involved in Anis' career, and who may be able to help smooth the way to a succession of bigger paydays.

"It's like when you're fishing and you throw out chum," Fennell chuckled. "Right now we're throwing chum in the water and seeing what we can get to bite. We'd love to fight somebody like Holyfield; a fight that could really put Ray on the map."

Anis figures his patience will eventually be rewarded. Sparring sessions with Lennox Lewis, Riddick Bowe, Holyfield, and Moorer have convinced him he belongs in championship company.

"It's good experience to spar with those guys because if you're ever going to have a shot at a title, you like to know you have a good chance of beating them," he said. "Those guys give you a lot of different techniques, and I learned a lot. It was good for my confidence.

"I try to box more than I did before. My progress has been kind of slow, but I still think I can be champion of the world."

Jay N. Miller, who is based in Brockton, Massachusetts, is **THE RING'S** ***correspondent for New England.***

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By Don Scott

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It will begin on Friday, June 9, and will end the afternoon of June 11. You'll be able to talk to fighters, collectors, and fans, get a few autographs, buy lots of memorabilia, and witness the induction of several greats into boxing's Hall of Fame.

The IBHF offers a weekend collectors' package that includes meals, lodging, and tickets to the major events of the weekend. A preview:

Friday: The first official event, which lasts all day, is registration for those on the package deal. At noon, there will be a ringside lecture on fight memorabilia by yours truly. At 3:30, there will be a press conference, with all the fighters present. Typically, about 25 fighters, past and present, attend. (By the time you read this, the 1995 inductees will have been announced.) A sampling of those who have attended in years past: Carmen Basilio, Joe Frazier, Vinny Pazienza, Marvin Hagler, Michael Moorer, Gene Fullmer, Kid Gavilan, Bob Foster, Emile Griffith, Michael and Leon Spinks, Archie Moore, Willie Pep, and Sandy Saddler. Ali was there for the first one.

In the evening, there will be an amateur card at the nearby Turning Stone Casino. The celebrities will be there, too, and some will spar after the youngsters are through. It's a treat to watch old foes Basilio and Fullmer go at it, inevitably working the referee into a corner and then giving him a going-over. The evening will conclude with fight talk at the local watering hole, Graziano's. This will be the time for an autograph or two.

Saturday: From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., there will be a collector's show and sale. Thousands of pieces of memorabilia will be offered, and the celebrities will cycle through and sign autographs. This is a premier event for collectors, and it's always characterized by unusual items changing hands. Whether you like autographs, cards, programs, tickets, equipment, or whatever, this is your place to be.

In the evening, there will be a banquet of champions, featuring a nice meal and a handful of anecdotes from the fighters on the dais.

Sunday: Following a pancake breakfast at the Fireman's Hall, you might catch a talk somewhere on the grounds by one of the fighters. Then there will be the casting of the inductees' fists in plaster. This will be followed by a parade and the induction ceremonies.

In between all this activity, there will be time to tour the Hall of Fame's museum and pick up a few souvenirs at the gift shop. In addition, you'll meet fans and collectors from around the globe; each year there have been visitors from Europe and even Australia.

I have attended each Hall of Fame weekend, and I can't tell you what a joy they've been. The key is the hospitality and warm feeling presented by the people of Canastota. If you can be there, don't miss it. For further information, call the Hall of Fame at (315) 697-7095.

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Collectors' alert: Know what you're buying. Spring is the time for various sports auctions. Something will invariably be touted as "guaranteed authentic." What does that mean? Will someone be there after the auction in case you've found what you bought to be bogus? Do your research and don't make a purchase unless you're certain. ■

Don Scott is editor and publisher of ***Boxing Collector's News*** *and may be contacted through* THE RING.

WORLDWIDE RATINGS

The ratings of the three major governing bodies recognized by THE RING are supplied by the organizations themselves. They are updated on these pages as soon as they are made available to us. In this issue, the WBA ratings were compiled as of December 1994, and the WBC ratings and IBF ratings were compiled as of January 1995.

HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Oliver McCall (USA)	C	–	–
George Foreman (USA)	–	C	C
Tony Tucker (USA)	1	1	1
Lennox Lewis (GB)	2	7	6
Lionel Butler (USA)	3	3	12
Bruce Seldon (USA)	4	2	2
Henry Akinwande (GB)	5	9	9
Jorge Luis Gonzalez (CUBA)	6	12	10
Joe Hipp (USA)	7	5	5
Larry Holmes (USA)	8	–	–
Frank Bruno (GB)	9	–	–
Frans Botha (SA)	10	4	4
Michael Moorer (USA)	14	6	3
Alexandre Zolkin (RUS)	11	8	–
Razor Ruddock (CAN)	24	10	–
Buster Mathis (USA)	22	–	7
Corrie Sanders (SA)	16	–	8

CRUISERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Anaclet Wamba (FRA)	C	–	–
Orlin Norris (USA)	–	C	–
Alfred Cole (USA)	–	–	C
Carl Thompson (GB)	1	5	6
Sergei Kobozev (RUS)	2	4	2
Adolpho Washington (USA)	3	3	–
Robert Daniels (USA)	4	7	9
Marcelo Dominguez (ARG)	5	–	–
Alexander Gurov (UKR)	6	–	–
Akim Tafer (FRA)	7	11	7
Dennis Andries (GB)	8	–	–
Mark Randazzo (USA)	9	–	–
Arthur Williams (USA)	10	–	12
Thomas Hearns (USA)	–	1	4
Marcelo Figueroa (ARG)	19	2	–
Ralf Rocchigiani (GER)	–	6	–
Nate Miller (USA)	12	8	3
Norbert Ekassi (CAM)	11	9	5
Richard Mason (USA)	27	10	11
Uriah Grant (USA)	–	–	1
Andre Purlet (GUY)	–	–	8
Saul Montana (MEX)	20	–	10

LT. HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Mike McCallum (USA)	C	–	–
Virgil Hill (USA)	–	C	–
Henry Maske (GER)	–	–	C
Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)	1	2	8
Jeff Harding (AUSTRL)	2	–	4
Randall Yonker (USA)	3	–	–
Eddy Smulders (HOLL)	4	5	–
Eric Nicoletta (FRA)	5	3	–
Frank Tate (USA)	6	4	–
Rudy Nix (USA)	7	–	5
Gary Delaney (GB)	8	–	–
Montell Griffin (USA)	9	–	10
Christophe Girard (FRA)	10	–	–
Wang Sup Lee (KOR)	25	1	–
Egerton Marcus (CAN)	–	6	1
Brent Kosolofski (CAN)	–	7	–
Duran Williams (USA)	–	8	2
Drake Thadzi (CAN)	–	9	–
Jose Gomez (BRA)	19	10	–
James Toney (USA)	–	–	3
John Scully (USA)	21	–	6
Charles Williams (USA)	13	–	7
Greg Everett (USA)	–	–	9

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Nigel Benn (GB)	C	–	–
Frank Liles (USA)	–	C	–
Roy Jones (USA)	–	–	C
Gerald McClellan (USA)	1	–	–
Frederic Seiller (FRA)	2	10	5
Graziano Rocchigiani (GER)	3	6	–
Tony Byrd (USA)	4	1	1
Steve Little (USA)	5	4	9
James Toney (USA)	6	–	–
Thulane Malinga (SA)	7	9	–
Cornelius Carr (GB)	8	–	–
Tim Littles (USA)	9	2	3
Carl Jones (USA)	10	–	–
Mauricio Amaral (BRA)	–	3	–
Byun Gin Kang (KOR)	22	5	–
Vinny Pazienza (USA)	–	7	–
Michael Nunn (USA)	12	8	4
Lonnie Bradley (USA)	–	–	2
Darrin Van Horn (USA)	–	–	6
Daren Zenner (USA)	19	–	7
Tony Thornton (USA)	–	–	8
Ray Close (GB)	15	–	10

MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Vacant	C	–	C
Jorge Castro (ARG)	–	C	–
Agostino Cardamone (ITA)	1	4	7
Julian Jackson (USA)	2	–	4
Silvio Branco (ITA)	3	10	–
Quincy Taylor (USA)	4	7	5
Lonnie Bradley (USA)	5	–	–
Joe Lipsey (USA)	6	9	3
Richie Woodhall (GB)	7	–	–
Reggie Johnson (USA)	8	1	8
Neville Brown (GB)	9	–	10
Shinji Takehara (JAP)	10	5	–
Peter Venancio (BRA)	–	2	–
Segundo Mercado (ECU)	–	3	2
Bernard Hopkins (USA)	–	6	1
John David Jackson (USA)	11	8	6
Miguel Viloria (COL)	–	–	9

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Luis Santana (DR)	C	–	–
Julio Cesar Vasquez (ARG)	–	C	–
Vincent Pettway (USA)	–	–	C
Terry Norris (USA)	1	–	–
Julio Cesar Green (USA)	2	4	1
Laurent Boudouani (FRA)	3	–	–
Bronco McKart (USA)	4	6	–
Simon Brown (USA)	5	8	10
Robert McCracken (GB)	6	–	6
Javier Castillejo (SPA)	7	1	8
Carl Daniels (USA)	8	3	–
Paul Vaden (USA)	9	–	2
Godfrey Nyakana (UGA)	10	–	–
Julian Jackson (USA)	–	2	–
Winky Wright (USA)	12	5	–
Bernard Razzano (FRA)	–	7	–
Paul Vaden (USA)	–	9	–
Darrin Morris (USA)	–	10	9
Gianfranco Rosi (ITA)	15	–	3
Keith Holmes (USA)	–	–	4
Raul Marquez (USA)	22	–	5
Rossman Henry (COL)	–	–	7

WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Pernell Whitaker (USA)	C	–	–
Ike Quartey (GHA)	–	C	–
Felix Trinidad (PR)	–	–	C
Gary Jacobs (GB)	1	2	4
Larry Barnes (USA)	2	–	1
Andrew Murray (GUY)	3	1	2
Wilfredo Rivera (PR)	4	–	3
David Gonzalez (USA)	5	11	7
Buddy McGirt (USA)	6	–	8
Crisanto Espana (VEN)	7	3	–
Lonnie Smith (USA)	8	–	–
Jose Luis Navarro (SPA)	9	–	–
Oba Carr (USA)	10	6	6
Yori Boy Campas (MEX)	–	4	5
Freddy Ladd (USA)	–	5	–
Roger Turner (USA)	27	7	9
Sean Sullivan (NZ)	–	8	–
Andrey Pestryaev (RUS)	17	9	–
Jung Oh Park (KOR)	–	10	–
Derrell Coley (USA)	11	12	10

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Julio Cesar Chavez (MEX)	C	–	–
Frankie Randall (USA)	–	C	–
Jake Rodriguez (USA)	–	–	C

David Kamau (USA)	1	3	5
Hugo Pineda (COL)	2	4	2
Bergman (SA)	3	6	10
Coggi (ARG)	4	2	–
Giovanni Parisi (ITA)	5	9	3
Beryll Tyson (USA)	6	–	4
Khalid Rahilou (FRA)	7	1	–
Manuel Chaves (ARG)	8	–	–
Hedrick Taylor (USA)	9	–	–
Tomyuki Sakamoto (JAP)	10	–	–
Kyun Park (KOR)	23	5	–
George Scott (USA)	–	7	–
Bert Bo Jacobsen (DEN)	18	8	–
Pierre Lorcy (FRA)	–	10	–
Tonya Tszyu (AUSTRL)	–	–	1
Pedro Sanchez (DR)	–	–	6
Pedro Padilla (COL)	–	–	7
Ray Oliveira (USA)	13	–	8
Freddie Ladd (USA)	–	–	9

LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Miguel Angel Gonzalez (MEX)	C	–	–
Kamazov Olzubek (JAP)	–	C	–
Rafael Ruelas (USA)	–	–	C
Miguel Julio (COL)	1	1	1
Jean Baptist Mendy (FRA)	2	–	–
Alexander Johnson (USA)	3	2	7
Ramon Marchena (MEX)	4	–	8
Ricardo Silva (ARG)	5	–	–
Harry Jakubowski (USA)	6	–	–
Nicolas Cervera (COL)	7	–	–
Shane Mosley (USA)	8	–	12
Hector Tejeda (ARG)	9	–	–
Steve Johnston (USA)	10	–	11
Julian Tejeda (ARG)	–	3	–
Antanius Taroreh (INDO)	24	4	–
Tomyuki Sakamoto (JAP)	–	5	–
Rasheed Lawal (DEN)	17	6	–
Billy Schwer (GB)	–	7	2
Phillip Holiday (SA)	11	8	–
Joey Gamache (USA)	25	9	–
Boots Canoy (PHIL)	–	10	–
Orlando Marimon (COL)	–	–	3
Thulagan Thobela (SA)	20	–	4
Melvin Lark (USA)	–	–	5
Wilson Palacios (COL)	–	–	6
Aaron Robinson (USA)	12	12	9
Eduardo Molina (COL)	–	–	10

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Gabriel Ruelas (USA)	C	–	–
Navarro Hernandez (USA)	–	C	–
Julio-John Molina (PR)	–	–	C
Hannah Nelson (GHA)	1	3	9
Dimitriy Alexandrov (RUS)	2	8	–
Floyd Hopson (USA)	3	4	2
Jose James Leija (USA)	4	6	7
Fred Liberatore (USA)	5	9	5
Robin Yoma (FRA)	6	11	–
Rich Johnson (TRIN)	7	–	–
Mauro Gatti (USA)	8	–	3
Jimmy Garcia (COL)	9	5	–
Jung Soo Choi (KOR)	10	2	–
Victor Hugo Paz (ARG)	–	1	–
Jimmy Pep (CAN)	–	7	–
Robin Juuko (UGA)	24	10	–
Moises Pedroza (COL)	–	–	1
Wilson Rodriguez (DR)	–	–	4
Phillip Holiday (SA)	–	–	6
Calvin Grove (USA)	–	–	8
Herman Gutierrez (COL)	–	–	10

FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Alejandro Gonzalez (MEX)	C	2	7
Joey Rojas (VEN)	–	C	–
Tom Johnson (USA)	–	–	C
Cesar Soto (MEX)	1	8	–
Kevin Kelley (USA)	2	–	–
Javier Beleno (COL)	3	4	1
Jose Badillo (PR)	4	7	6
Tracy Patterson (USA)	5	–	–
Hector Lizarraga (USA)	6	–	10
Tony Green (USA)	7	–	2
Luis Saguid (PHIL)	8	11	–
Carlos Rios (ARG)	9	–	–
Louie Espinoza (USA)	10	–	–

Yung Kyun Park (KOR)	13	1	–
Miguel Arrozal (PHIL)	12	3	3
Luis Mendoza (COL)	16	5	–
Orlando Soto (PAN)	14	6	8
Francisco Segura (USA)	20	9	4
Sean Murphy (USA)	–	10	–
Victor Polo (COL)	29	–	5
Manuel Medina (MEX)	–	–	9

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Hector Acero-Sanchez (DR)	C	–	–
Wilfredo Vasquez (PR)	–	C	–
Vuyani Bungu (SA)	–	–	C
Julio Gervacio (DR)	1	4	5
Marco Antonio Barrera (MEX)	2	–	–
Daniel Zaragoza (MEX)	3	–	–
Jesus Salud (USA)	4	8	6
Frank Toledo (USA)	5	–	9
Eddie Croft (USA)	6	–	–
Reynaldo Hurtado (COL)	7	–	7
Sergio Liendo (ARG)	8	–	–
Welcome Ncita (SA)	9	–	3
Jesse Benavides (USA)	10	–	–
Antonio Cermeno (VEN)	–	1	–
Arnulfo Romero (PAN)	26	2	–
Ramon Guzman (VEN)	18	3	–
Hiroaki Yokota (JAP)	14	5	–
Junior Jones (USA)	–	6	–
Thierry Jacob (FRA)	–	7	–
Hee Yun Kwon (KOR)	–	9	–
Yuichi Kasai (JAP)	–	10	–
Nurhuda (INDO)	–	–	1
Pablo Ozuna (COL)	–	–	2
Kennedy McKinney (USA)	13	–	4
Maui Diaz (USA)	20	–	8
Orlando Fernandez (PR)	–	–	10

BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Yasuei Yakushiji (JAP)	C	–	–
Daorung Chuvatana (THAI)	–	C	–
Orlando Canizales (USA)	–	–	C
Wayne McCullough (IRE)	1	9	6
Joichiro Tatsuyoshi (JAP)	2	1	–
Nana Konadu (GHA)	3	6	–
Naseem Hamed (GB)	4	8	5
Khaoyai Mahasarakam (THAI)	5	–	–
Roberto Moran (ARG)	6	–	–
Victor Rabanales (MEX)	7	–	–
Dong Choon Lee (KOR)	8	–	–
Cuauhtemoc Gomez (MEX)	9	–	–
John Armour (GB)	10	–	8
Johnny Bredahl (DEN)	–	2	–
Jorge Julio (COL)	15	3	10
Yong Hoon Lee (KOR)	–	4	–
Abraham Torres (VEN)	22	5	9
John Michael Johnson (USA)	12	7	–
Harold Mestre (COL)	–	10	2
Juvenal Berrio (COL)	–	–	1
Sergio Reyes (USA)	19	–	3
Mbuelo Botile (SA)	26	–	4
Ricardo Vargas (MEX)	24	–	7

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Hiroshi Kawashima (JAP)	C	–	–
Hyung Chul Lee (KOR)	–	C	–
Harold Grey (COL)	–	–	C
Cecilio Espino (MEX)	1	12	–
Danny Romero (USA)	2	7	–
Jose Luis Bueno (MEX)	3	6	–
Joel Luna Zarate (MEX)	4	–	4
Gerry Penalosa (PHIL)	5	3	–
Carlos Salazar (ARG)	6	–	–
Johnny Bredahl (DEN)	7	–	–
Luis Bolano (COL)	8	–	–
Seung Koo Lee (KOR)	9	5	–
Satoshi Iida (JAP)	10	2	–
Alimi Goitia (VEN)	21	1	–
David Griman (VEN)	19	4	–
Ernie Cataluna (PHIL)	–	8	–
Julio Gamboa Blanco (NIC)	–	9	–
Tomonori Tamura (JAP)	–	10	–
Julio Borboa (MEX)	–	–	1
Marco Antonio Barrera (MEX)	–	–	2
Jaji Sibali (SA)	–	–	3
Jose Diaz (USA)	25	–	5
Ratanachai Sor Voraphin (THAI)	–	–	6
Rodolfo Blanco (COL)	–	–	7
Ubadel Soto (COL)	–	–	8
Lamhot Simamora (INDO)	–	–	9
Rolando Bohol (PHIL)	26	–	10

FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Yuri Arbachakov (RUS)	C	–	–
San Sor Ploenchit (THAI)	–	C	–
Vacant	–	–	C
Chatchai Elite-Gym (THAI)	1	–	–
Mark Johnson (USA)	2	–	7
Oscar Arciniega (MEX)	3	9	–
Hugo Soto (ARG)	4	–	–
Miguel Martinez (MEX)	5	–	9
Isaias Zamudio (USA)	6	11	–
Jesus Zuniga (COL)	7	–	–
Chokchai 3-K Battery (THAI)	8	6	–
Raul Rios (MEX)	9	–	–
Enrique Orozco (MEX)	10	–	–
Evangelino Perez (PAN)	25	1	–
Alvaro Mercado (COL)	–	2	–
Hiroki Ioka (JAP)	20	3	–
Robbie Regan (GB)	12	4	8
Aquiles Guzman (VEN)	24	5	–
Jose Luis Zepeda (MEX)	–	7	1
Yong Soon Chang (KOR)	–	8	–
Sung Tae Lim (KOR)	–	10	–
Francisco Tejedor (COL)	–	–	2
Ferid Ben Jeddou (TUN)	16	–	3
Danny Romero (USA)	–	–	4
Chatchai Sasakul (THAI)	–	–	5
Abdi Pohan (INDO)	–	–	6
Alberto Jimenez (MEX)	–	–	10

JR. FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Chiquita Gonzalez (MEX)	C	–	C
Leo Gamez (VEN)	–	C	–
Melchor Cob Castro (MEX)	1	9	4
Michael Carbajal (USA)	2	4	3
Jesus Chong (MEX)	3	7	10
Carlos Murillo (PAN)	4	2	2
Miguel Angel Granados (MEX)	5	–	–
Javier Varguez (MEX)	6	–	–
Saman Sorjaturong (THAI)	7	–	–
Yong Soon Chang (KOR)	8	–	–
Eric Griffin (USA)	9	8	6
Hadao C.P. Gym (THAI)	10	5	–
Hi Yong Choi (KOR)	–	1	–
Virgilio Chifundo (PAN)	26	3	–
Yuichi Hosono (JAP)	11	6	7
Yong Jin Kim (KOR)	–	10	–
Jesus Zuniga (COL)	–	–	1
Kwang Sun Kim (KOR)	–	–	5
Yani Malhendo (INDO)	–	–	8
Shiro Yahiro (JAP)	22	–	9

STRAWWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	C	–	–
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	–	C	–
Ratanapol Vorapin (THAI)	–	–	C
Ala Villamor (PHIL)	1	3	–
Kermin Guardia (COL)	2	4	–
Andy Tabanas (PHIL)	3	–	–
Rocky Lin (JAP)	4	–	–
Osvaldo Guerrero (MEX)	5	–	–
Songkram Porpaoin (THAI)	6	7	–
Shinichi Tamaki (JAP)	7	9	–
Joma Gamboa (PHIL)	8	–	3
Seo Kjin Yang (KOR)	9	6	–
Yodsing Saengmorokot (THAI)	10	–	–
Jin Ho Kim (KOR)	–	1	–
Rosendo Alvarez (NIC)	17	2	4
Saman Sorjaturong (THAI)	–	5	–
Keum Yung Kang (KOR)	–	8	–
Manuel Herrera (DR)	–	10	–
Mauricio Pastrana (COL)	–	–	1
Oscar Flores (COL)	–	–	2
Ernesto Rubillar (PHIL)	–	–	5
Carlos Rodriguez (VEN)	–	–	6
Surachai Saengmorokot (THAI)	–	–	7
Dominggus (INDO)	–	–	8
Jerry Pahayahay (PHIL)	24	–	9
Rafael Torres (USA)	–	–	10

CLASSIC

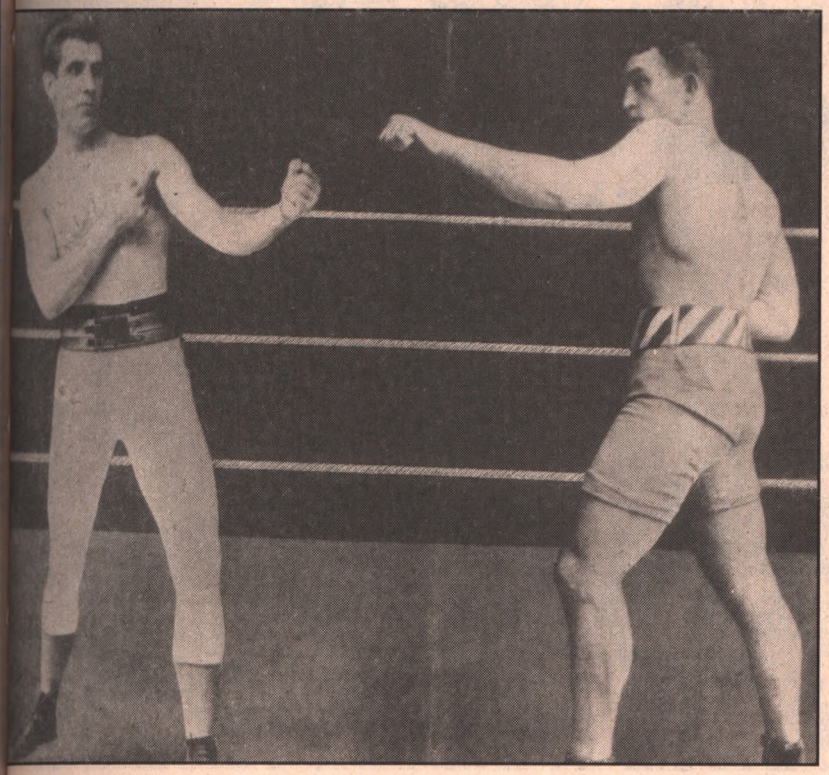
From THE RING, June 1940

THEY WORK BOTH WAYS

Accidents and illness have aided some fighters to reach the heights, while others have suffered. Conn's boils seem a blessing in disguise

Light heavyweight champion Billy Conn was headed for a try at Joe Louis until a bout with boils brought a layoff. Was it really a blessing in disguise?

eavyweight Tony Galento cracks Nathan Mann with his famed left hook. "Two-Ton Tony" was repared to extend his hot streak when he was felled by pneumonia. Instead of facing John Henry ewis, he secured a shot at Joe Louis—and the huge payday that accompanied it.



lengthy layoff due to illness seemed to benefit James J. Corbett (left), who, in losing to heavyweight hampion Jim Jeffries in 1900, gave one of the finest performances of his career.

By Ted Carroll

As Billy Conn convalesces in his Pittsburgh home from his most recent attack of boils that have twice caused a postponement of his title match with Gus Lesnevich, the Smoky City champion probably bewails the ill luck that threatens to stymie his budding career. What the light heavyweight titleholder doesn't realize is that it's an ill wind that blows nobody good, and who knows but that in the long run, he himself may be the gainer through his present indisposition. In years gone by, many a young boxer has benefited through the rest and delay caused by an illness or accident.

Only 22 years of age, Billy, who comes of a race that matures late in life, should have his best years before him. His present ailment prevents his being overworked at too early an age, and the slowing up of his schedule may work out all for the better.

Sweet William was apparently being primed for a shot at Joe Louis this September, and while the loss of so lucrative a shot may not call for any loud cheers on Conn's part, if the now troublesome boils result in causing a delay in Conn's crack at the big title, and thereby brings him into the ring in 1941 or 1942 against an older, richer, and possibly more indolent Louis, Billy may one day have reason to thank the pestiferous germs that laid him low in 1940.

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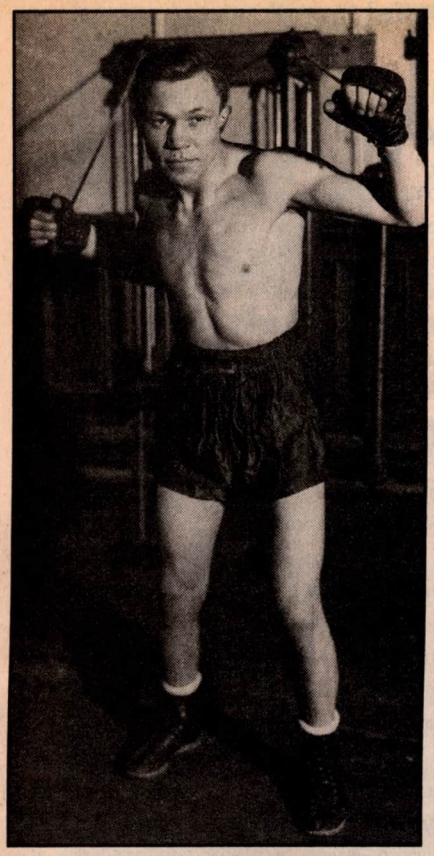
If things should pan out this way, Billy won't be the first to have been the gainer through such a blessing in disguise. As recently as the summer of 1938, "Two-Ton" Tony Galento was roaring along the heavyweight highway like a runaway locomotive. The animated beer barrel had rolled over the recumbent forms of Al Ettore, Lorenzo Pack, and Leroy Haynes, and seemed to be gaining momentum as he went along when he was kayoed by a pneumonia bug.

This looked like the toughest of tough breaks for the rejuvenated Jerseyman, as he was matched at the time to meet light heavyweight champion John Henry Lewis in Philadelphia in what appeared to be the hottest match to hit Quakertown in years. With a $70,000 advance in the till, promoter Muggsy Taylor, Joe Jacobs, and all others connected with the enterprise, howled to the heavens at this seemingly harsh blow of fate that had hit them all where it hurts



Lightweight legend Lou Ambers became a better fighter after suffering a broken jaw vs. Fritzie Zivic in 1935. After surviving that painful an injury, he figured he could overcome anything.

the most—in the pocketbook.

Happily, Galento recovered, and the John Henry Lewis match was consigned to oblivion. What happened after Tony's recovery? The round man from Mayor Hague's domain went on to that epic melee with Joe Louis—and a $43,750 purse for his efforts—and when Uncle Sam's tax collector called at the Galento menage a few days ago, the ex-bartender paid a tax on no less than $98,000 for the year of 1939.

Suppose Galento had gone on to the match with John Henry. It is far from unlikely that the then-capable Arizona Negro might have survived the Italian's early-rounds barrage and come on to outstab and outgallop his wheezing, ungainly foe. In that event—and it easily could have happened—there would have been no Louis fight for Galento to forever hark back to, with its dramatic knockdowns, and no $100,000 take for your Uncle Samuel to take his bite out of when the collector rang the Galento doorbell.

Lucky enough to survive his siege of the dread pneumonia, circumstances developed in such a way that Two-Ton Tony eventually capitalized on what seemed to be a terrible stroke of bad luck.

***

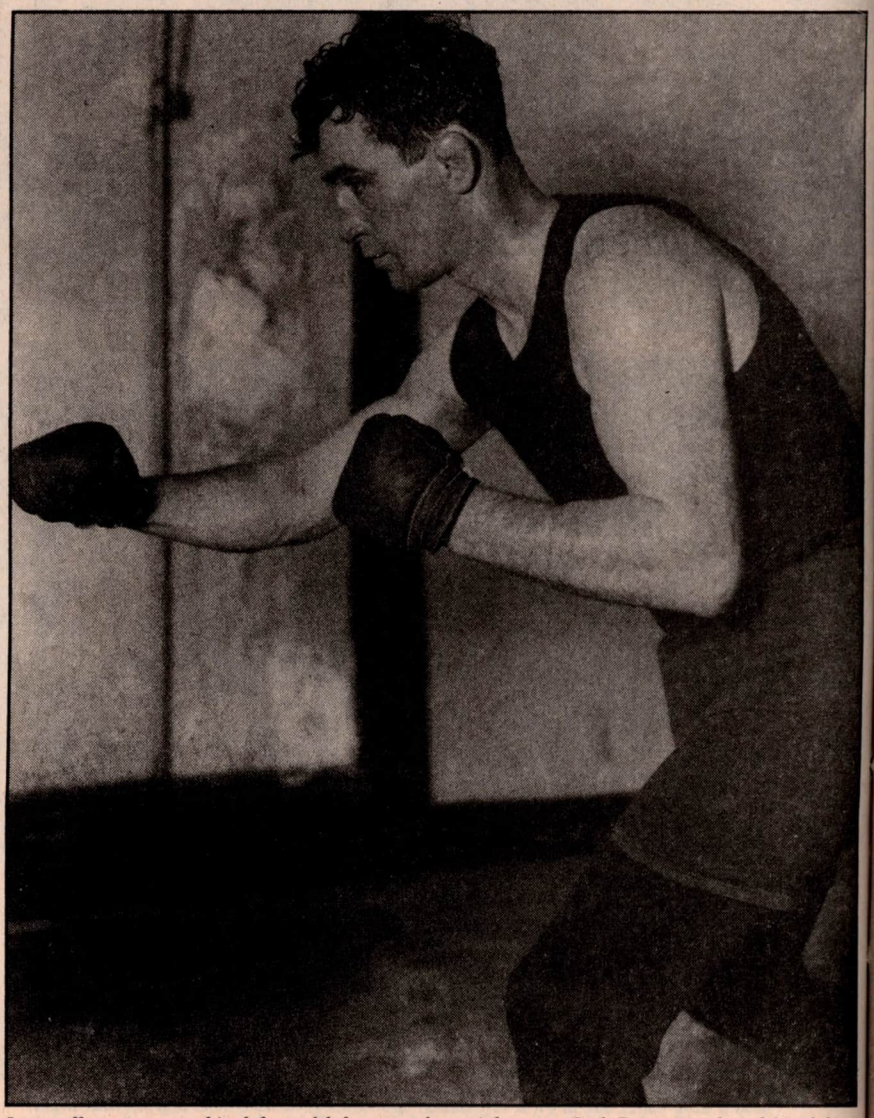
Something along similar lines happened to none other than the famed Gentleman Jim Corbett many years ago. Following the loss of his title to Bob Fitzsimmons in 1897, the Californian's health took a turn for the worse. Following his fight with Tom Sharkey in 1898, Gentleman Jim went into temporary retirement, then built up his health to such an extent that three years after losing his title, he turned in what many regard as his greatest fight, his 23-round classic with Jim Jeffries at Coney Island. For 22 rounds, Corbett's boxing surpassed any of his previous efforts, outstanding though they had been.

Jeffries landed but one solid punch during the fight, according to many unbiased old-timers, but that one was the payoff, and the masterly Corbett succumbed to a 23rd-round knockout after having built a seemingly invincible lead on points. Despite the result, the boxing world at the time acclaimed the 34-year-old Corbett for his grand comeback and the nearness he came to regaining the heavyweight championship of the world.

Corbett, in conquering the illness that overtook him, had attained the greatest peak of his fighting career and narrowly missed making his name preeminent among the great champions of the past.

***

As the learned Mr. Gene Tunney, recent victor in a Shakespearean joust with a college professor, might put it, in the words of the Bard of Avon, "Sweet are the uses of adversity." Al Weill is no student of the Bard, but this astute



In an effort to protect his deformed left ear, welterweight great Jack Britton perfected his defense, especially against right hands. Sometimes an injury brings out the best in a fighter.

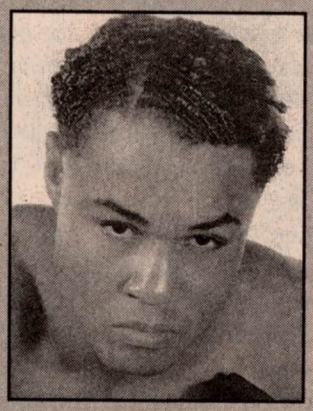
mentor means the same thing when he tells you, "The jaw he got broke in Pittsboigh with Fritzie Zivic made my Lou Ambers a great fighter. That was one tough break that made my kid champ."

Ambers has always been a good fighter, but he made all his best bouts after he suffered this painful injury on July 1, 1935, against the hard-hitting Pittsburgher. "If that guy could bust my jaw and I could still lick him, I must be right there," reasoned the always-happy "Herkimer Hurricane," and he was right.

Ambers was back in action six months after it happened, with renewed confidence and greater aggressiveness. Instead of being gun-shy, Laughing Lou was just the opposite, probably figuring his chin must be punch-proof if he could win a fight with it broken. This frame of mind, as much as anything else, resulted in Ambers becoming the first fighter in history to regain the world lightweight title.

Our old friend, Dumb Dan Morgan, sounds off in like vein. "Yes," opines the always ready

THE RING RATINGS, *June 1940*



Henry Armstrong

HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Joe Louis

1. Arturo Godoy
2. Tony Galento
3. Bob Pastor
4. Red Burman
5. Nathan Mann
6. Roscoe Toles
7. Gunnar Barlund
8. Johnny Whiters
9. Junior Munsell
10. Buddy Walker

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Billy Conn

1. Gus Lesnevich
2. Melio Bettina
3. Len Harvey
4. Jock McAvoy
5. Anton Christoforidis
6. Turkey Thompson
7. Tony Cisco
8. Jimmy Webb
9. Harry Balsamo
10. Stanley Hasrato

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
World Champ: Title Vacant

1. Ceferino Garcia
2. Tony Zale
3. Ken Overlin
4. Al Hostak
5. Atilio Sabatino
6. Ron Richards
7. Georgie Abrams
8. Victor Dellicurti
9. Lloyd Marshall
10. Coley Welch

WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Henry Armstrong

1. Cocoa Kid
2. Holman Williams
3. Izzy Jannazzo
4. Milt Aron
5. Fritzie Zivic
6. Pedro Montanez
7. Steve Mamakos
8. Maxie Berger
9. Mike Kaplan
10. Steve Belloise

LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champ: Lou Ambers

1. Davey Day
2. Sammy Angott
3. Jackie Wilson
4. Eric Boon
5. Pete Lello
6. Bob Montgomery
7. Paul Junior
8. Dave Castilloux
9. George Latka
10. Johnny Bellus

FEATHERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Joey Archibald

1. Jimmy Perrin
2. Pete Scalzo
3. Chalky Wright
4. Simon Chavez
5. Sixto Escobar
6. Bobby Ruffin
7. Al Reid
8. Spider Armstrong
9. Harry Jeffra
10. Vern Bybee

BANTAMWEIGHTS
World Champ: Title Vacant

1. Tony Olivera
2. George Pace
3. Lou Salica
4. Little Dado
5. K.O. Morgan
6. Little Pancho
7. Kui Kong Young
8. Kid Tanner
9. Pablo Dano
10. Aurel Toma

FLYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Title Vacant

1. Jackie Paterson
2. Enrico Urbinati
3. Manuel Ortiz
4. Tiny Bostock
5. Paddy Ryan
6. Johnny Boom
7. Jimmy Stubbs
8. Joe Curran
9. Small Montana
10. Rinty Monaghan

to oblige Daniel, "injuries, accidents, and sickness always bring out the best in a real good fighter. Now take Jack Britton for instance. I'll bet you have wondered how a clever fellow like Britton ever got that big tin ear. Well, I'll tell you, that tin ear is what made Britton become clever.

"A big guy gave it to him in the gym when he was just a kid. When the kid got home and took a look at it in the mirror, he near died of fright. Nobody will ever hit me on that thing again, he swore, and this is on the level. I was his manager and I never saw anybody hit him with a right hand in 10 years. He took such good care of that bum left ear, after a while nobody could hit him anywhere."

From these classic examples of illness helping rather than hurting a boxer in the long run, young Mr. Conn, as well as Pat Comiskey, Al Davis, and a couple of other beginners whose progress has also been temporarily stayed from one ailment or another, should take comfort and encouragement. But like everything else, there's another and not so happy side to the picture. Not all afflicted fighters shake off various physical misfortunes.

A freak ring accident blighted what might have been one of the most lustrous championship careers when Teddy Yarosz tumbled to the canvas in such a way that he damaged his knee in suffering a seven-round knockout at the hands of Babe Risko back in 1935.

Few fighters ever got off to a more impressive start than the smooth-boxing Pittsburgh Pole. He won more than 60 fights in a row before dropping a decision to Memphis Eddie Kid Wolfe. Following this setback, he took up right where he left off and didn't stop his advance until he won the world middleweight championship from Vince Dundee in Pittsburgh on September 11, 1934. At that time, Yarosz' future looked every bit as bright as Billy Conn's does today. Incidentally, this same Yarosz was the last man to win a decision over his fellow Pittsburgher.

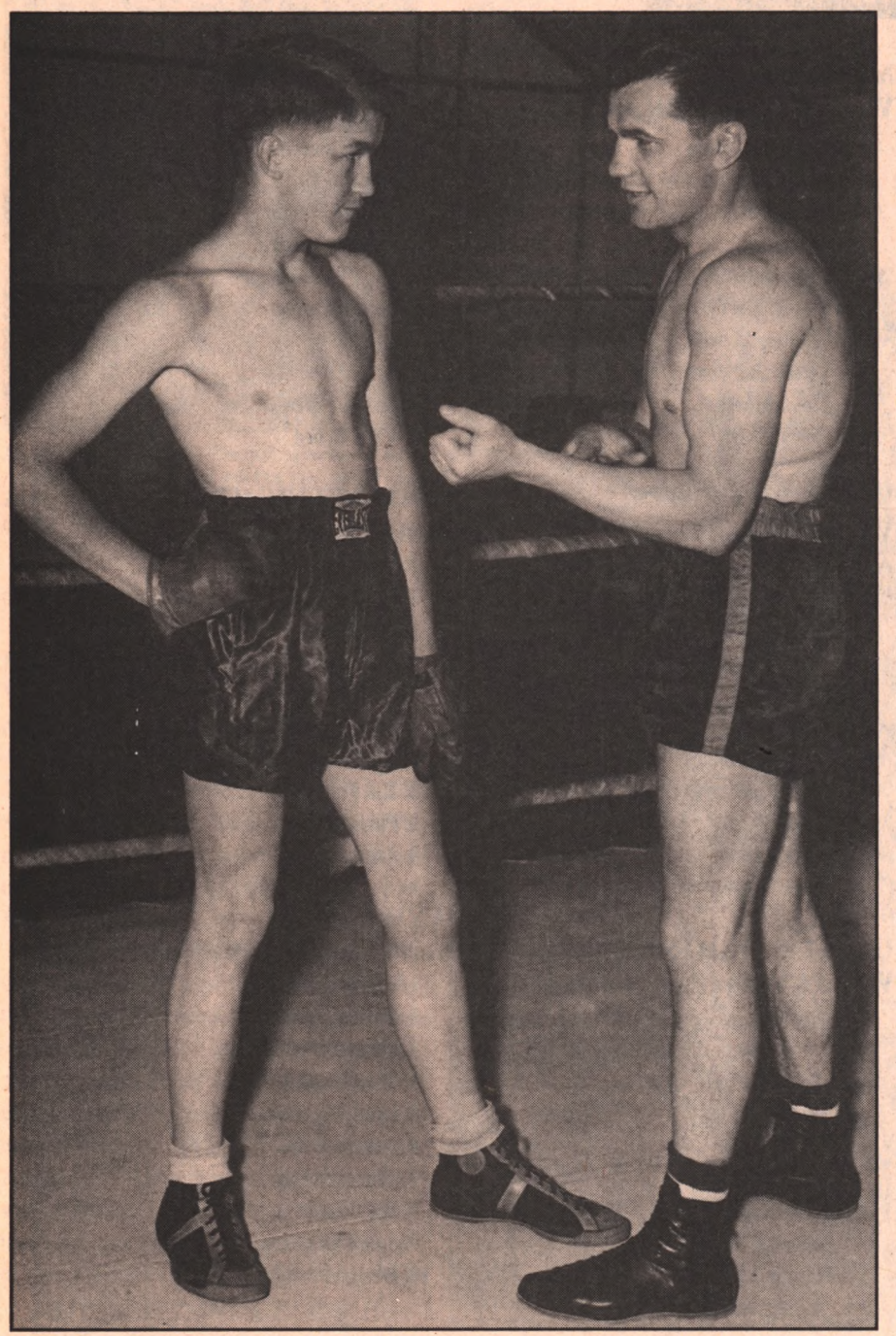
A year later, in Scranton, the accident happened and the Smoketown smoothie was never the same. He eventually dropped his title to the same Risko, and while a smart, capable boxer, never reached the heights he might have had not he been the victim of a cruel stroke of fortune.

***

Mike Belloise is still a competent performer, but the loss of a rib during his siege of pneumonia in 1937 hurt him a great deal. Mike still wins more than he loses, but he never regained the spark following this ordeal.

Quite often the misfortune of one boxer has been the "open Sesame" to fame and fortune for another. James J. Braddock, then in the throes of the most inspiring comeback in ring history, might have beaten Big Art Lasky anyway, but his task was made much simpler by Art's attack of grippe that had caused a previous postponement of the match. The luckless Lasky after shaking off, or so he thought, the grippe germs, came up with a bad hand, but feared to risk another postponement. He went through with the fight, received a licking, and his downgrade, and James J. went on to become pugilism's "Cinderella Man."

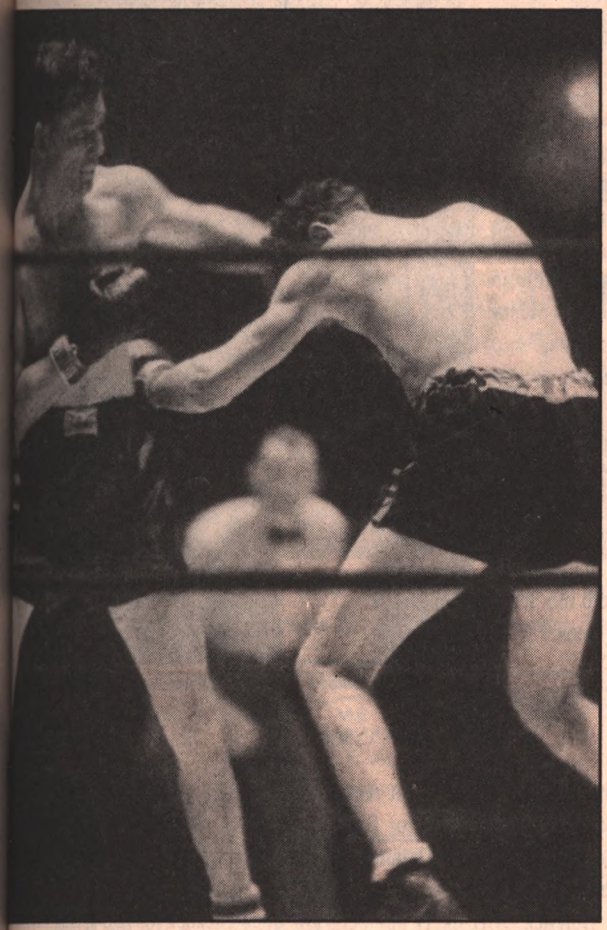
The swinging axe that placed Bob Pastor on the sidelines for nine months opened the way for Lou Nova's plunge into the heavyweight



Lots of fighters have been ruined by adversity. Middleweight champion Teddy Yarosz, shown instructing brother Tommy, lost his spark after suffering a knee injury vs. Babe Risko in 1935.

swim. Matched to fight Gunnar Barlund, Pastor was combining wood chopping and his regular training routine. Bob's aim wasn't all it should have been, and the axe found a resting place in his leg instead of the kindling. Result: In came Nova from the Coast to fill in for the stricken New Yorker. The Alameda lad made the most of his opportunity, stopping the gaunt Gunnar, and sliding right into the niche reserved for the man he had replaced.

How Conn's physical trials and tribulations will eventually affect his



Art Lasky (right) wasn't fully healthy when he took on Jimmy Braddock in 1935. Lasky, a 3-1 favorite, insisted on fighting and suffered a 15-round points loss. One fight later, Braddock won the world heavyweight title.

career only time will tell. Of course, everyone is hoping his ailment will prove a transient one, and if it is, he may find himself in a better position because of his enforced layoff than if his condition had permitted his fighting all along.

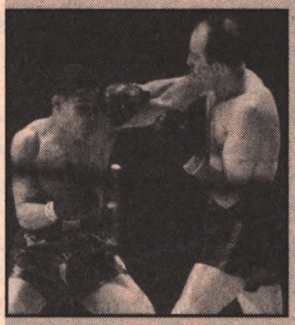
***

The ring career of Eugene Criqui should be an inspiration to all boxers who suffer accident or misfortune. The valiant Frenchman, victim of a terrible war wound that destroyed part of his lower jaw bone, did not let that blow of fate prevent him from gaining a world championship in the ring. Surgeons replaced the missing parts with the rib of a sheep, and the iron-hearted ex-Poilu came on to write a noble page in boxing history by winning the featherweight championship of the world from Johnny Kilbane back in 1923.

Present-day boxers should take courage from this outstanding example of fortitude and determination. ■

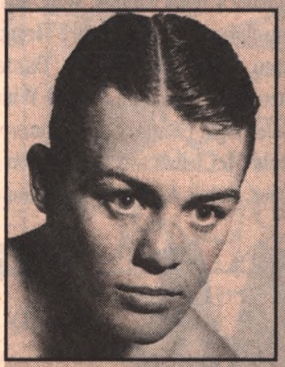
THE RING, June 1940

The Cover: Among the 160-pounders on the trail of THE RING'S middleweight championship belt are title claimant Ceferino Garcia and the highly ranked Ken Overlin. Tony Zale and Al Hostak are also leading contenders.



Bum Of The Month Club: In reviewing heavyweight champion Joe Louis' second-round kayo of the lightly regarded Johnny Paychek, Nat Fleischer concludes, "... the field of championship contenders is the weakest in the last 50 years." Fleischer described Paychek as "more scared than any pugilist I had ever seen."

The Value Of Experience: An examination of some of the most successful pugilists in history reveals one common trait: They all paid their dues before establishing themselves as world class. Among the examples cited: Jim Jeffries, Bob Fitzsimmons, and Jack Johnson (pictured).



Still Battling Down Under: Tod Morgan is best-known for his record-setting reign as world junior lightweight champion in the late-'20s. What most fight fans don't know is Morgan, a native of the Pacific Northwest, remains active, campaigning as a lightweight in Western Australia.

The Hazards Of The Comeback Trail: As former triple-crown champion Tony Canzoneri (pictured) has discovered, regaining your top fighting form is extremely difficult to do. A recent kayo loser to Bummy Davis, Canzoneri is just one example of a top-shelf fighter who failed to defeat Father Time.

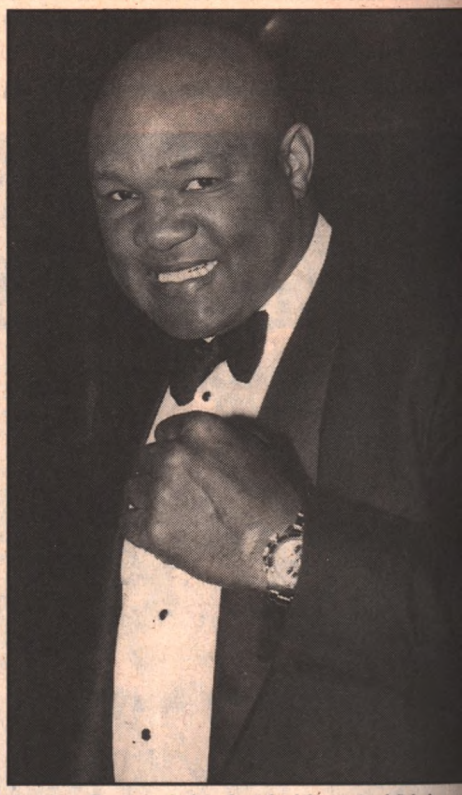
LOOKING AHEAD

By Steve Farhood

AXEL WHO?

On April 22, George Foreman will defend the WBA-IBF heavyweight titles against (drum roll, please) Germany's Axel Schulz at the Superdome in New Orleans or in Las Vegas. Here's what the record book says: Schulz, 26, is 21-1-1 (10). He turned pro in 1990, and won the German title in 1992. That same year, he faced England's Henry Akinwande for the European crown and struggled to a 12-round draw. In an immediate rematch, he was outpointed.

Here's what Bonecrusher Smith, who lost a decision to Schulz last September, told THE RING: "He's busy, and he could outbox George, but I think George will stop him. He doesn't have much power, which is why they picked him. He moved a lot against me, but every now and then he'd mix it up. He just doesn't have anything to hurt George with. Foreman by kayo in the seventh round."



Foreman's hand-picked foe is Axel Schulz

LISTEN UP

A TVKO pay-per-view card, scheduled for March 31 at Arrowhead Pond in Anaheim, California, promoted by Forum Boxing, will feature WBC-IBF junior flyweight champion **Chiquita Gonzalez** Colombia's **Jesus Zuniga**, WBC featherweight champion **Alejandro Gonzalez** vs. **Louie Espinoza**, WBA ju lightweight champion **Genaro Hernandez** vs. **Jorge Paez**, and unbeaten Mexican junior featherweight sensa **Marco Antonio Barrera** vs. **Daniel Jimenez** ... A likely pay-per-view doubleheader for late-spring: W welterweight champion **Pernell Whitaker** vs. longtime verbal sparring partner **Hector Camacho** and IBF su middleweight champion **Roy Jones** vs. **Vinny Pazienza** ... As we went to press, WBC middleweight champ **Gerald McClellan** was scheduled to challenge WBC super middleweight champion **Nigel Benn** on February 2 London. Italy's **Agostino Cardamone** and **Julian Jackson** will duel for the vacant 160-pound crown.

Las Vegas Hilton

FUTURE FIGHTS

By Art Manteris

VP/Director of Race and Sports Operations Las Vegas Hilton

Favorite	Underdog	Odds
Mike Tyson	George Foreman	4-1
George Foreman	Larry Holmes	Pick-'em
Oliver McCall	Larry Holmes	3-1
Pernell Whitaker	Felix Trinidad	5-2
Roy Jones	Gerald McClellan	7-2

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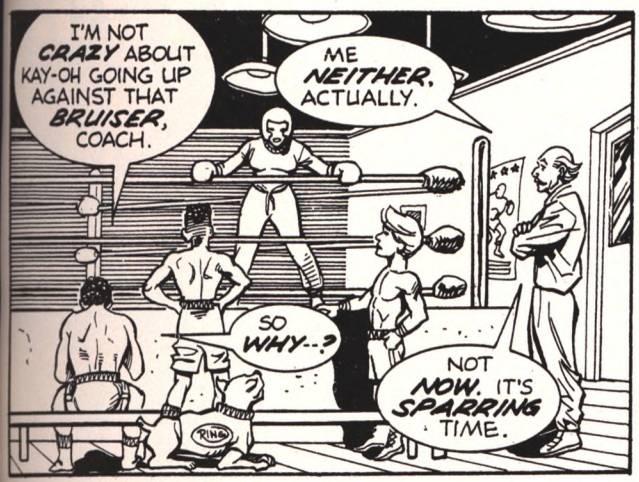

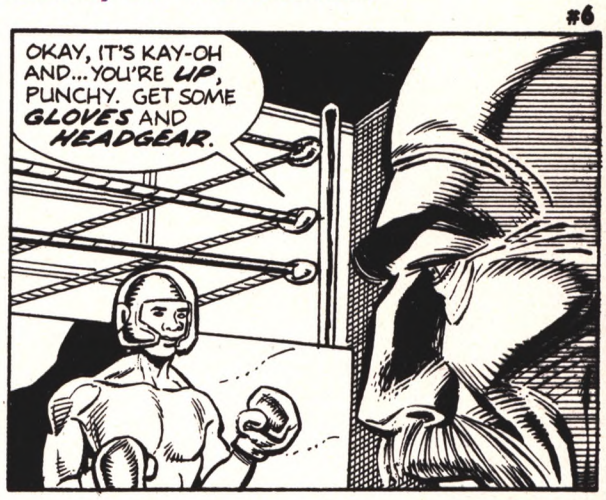

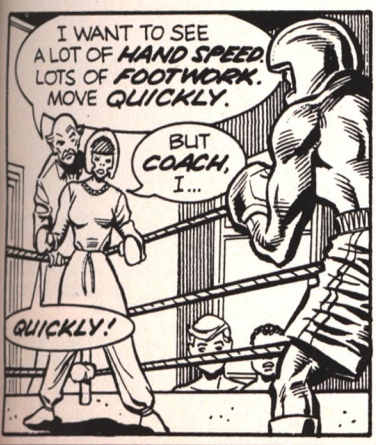

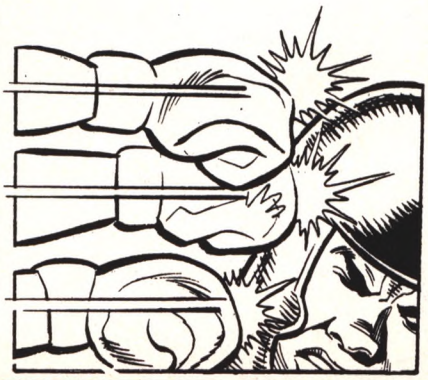

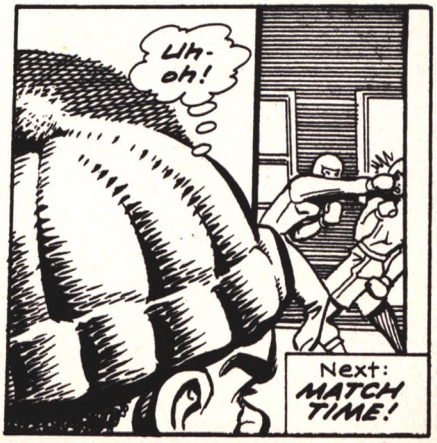

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